

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 130/95 (ASA 33/17/95, 9 June 1995) - Prisoners of conscience / Health concern

PAKISTAN	Zafar Yab Ahmad, journalist	
	Mohammad Salim )	workers with the
	Fatima (f) )	Bonded Labour Liberation
	Karamat Ali )	Front (BLLF)

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Zafar Yab Ahmad is still being held on charges of sedition and of "promoting hatred between groups"; he is alleged to have undermined "Pakistani interest abroad" by having published reports about bonded labour, particularly child labour in Pakistan. Zafar Yab Ahmad has now been transferred to judicial custody in Camp Jail, Lahore.

On 21 June, during a hearing of a petition filed by his lawyer to quash proceedings, the presiding judge of the Lahore High Court directed that Zafar Yab Ahmad should be transferred to a better class cell and that there should be regular health checks on account of his heart condition.

Zafar Yab Ahmad now has full access to lawyers and family members and journalist colleagues were able to talk to him while he awaited his court hearing. The next hearing of his petition, which argues that there are no grounds for detaining him, is on 26 June.

Of the other members of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF), Fatima and Karamat Ali were detained for several hours and then released. Mohammad Salim, the accountant of the BLLF, is still being held by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA); he is reportedly being questioned with regard to documents relating to BLLF director Ehsanullah Khan's activities.

Whether 13 members of Iqbal Masih's family, including his mother and the two juvenile eyewitnesses of the murder of Iqbal Masih in April, were arrested, remains unclear; according to some reports they were being held in the BLLF headquarters and set free during the raid on 8 June, while others reported that they had sought refuge there and were briefly detained by police.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters**

- welcoming reports that Zafar Yab Ahmad has been granted full access to lawyers and family members, and that he will be given regular health checks for his heart condition;
- reiterating, however, calls for him to be immediately and unconditionally released and for the charges of sedition and conspiracy against him and Ehsanullah Khan to be dropped;
- calling for Mohammad Salim to be released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO**

1. President Farooq Ahmad Leghari  
Office of the President  
Islamabad  
Faxes +92 51 811390

**Telexes: 54058 PSPUB PK**

**Telegrams: President Leghari, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

Office of the Prime Minister

Islamabad, Pakistan

**Faxes: +92 51 821835 or 823144 or 821968**

**Telexes: 5742 PMH PK**

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Bhutto, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

3. Mr Nabi Dad Khan

Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Ministry of Law and Justice

Pak Secretariat

Islamabad, Pakistan

**Telegrams: Minister of Law, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

diplomatic representatives of Pakistan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 August 1995.