

PUBLIC

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UA 146/06 Imminent execution

PAKISTAN Raja Anir (m), aged 36

Raja Anir is scheduled for execution on 29 May.

He reportedly confessed to the murder for which he has been sentenced to hang. He has been on death row in the capital, Islamabad, for eight years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2005 at least 241 people were sentenced to death in Pakistan, and at least 31 were executed, the majority for murder. Many well-off convicts were able to escape punishment under provisions of the Qisas and Diyat Ordinance, which allows relatives of murder victims to accept compensation and pardon the offender.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases. The death penalty is a symptom of a culture of violence, and not a solution to it. It has not been shown to have any greater deterrent effect than other punishments, and carries the risk of irrevocable error. The death penalty is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and a violation of the right to life, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- calling on President Musharraf to use his powers under article 45 of the Constitution of Pakistan to commute the death sentence passed on Raja Anir to a more humane punishment immediately;
- calling for an immediate moratorium on all executions in the country, as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

General Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat,
Islamabad,
Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 9221422

E-mail: via the president's website:

<http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>

Salutation: Dear President Musharraf

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 29 May 2006.