

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 33/21/97

8 July 1997

Further information on EXTRA 94/97 (ASA 33/20/97, 7 July 1997) - Prisoner of conscience/fear of torture

PAKISTAN Humayun Far, journalist

A hearing of the *habeas corpus* petition relating to Humayun Far's incommunicado detention took place on 8 July 1997. The prisoner was not brought before the Rawalpindi bench of the Lahore High Court as had been directed by the judge on 5 July. However, contradicting its earlier statement that Humayun Far was not being held by any state agency, including the army, a state representative reportedly said that Humayun Far was in the detention of military intelligence. He did not explain on what legal grounds he is being held nor where he is detained.

The court directed that the state should clarify on 14 July on what legal grounds Humayun Far is being detained and insisted that Humayun Far should be seen by the judge.

To Amnesty International's knowledge there are at present no criminal charges against Humayun Far. His whereabouts continue to be unknown. Humayun Far's family continues to fear for his physical safety.

The Pakistan government's continued failure to comply with High Court directives and to produce the prisoner at the hearings is in clear breach of provisions of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Pakistan Code of Criminal Procedure. These forbid arbitrary detention and require the detaining authority to bring the prisoner before a magistrate within 24 hours of arrest.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to immediately disclose the whereabouts of Humayun Far and to provide him access to a lawyer and to his family;
- urging the government to ensure that Humayun Far is not subjected to torture or other forms of ill-treatment;
- urging the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release him as a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

When faxing, if unable to obtain a tone, try again later, preferably in office hours, Pakistan time.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif
Office of the Prime Minister
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telexes: 5742 PMH PK

telegrams: Prime Minister, Islamabad, Pakistan

Faxes: 92 51 9208890 / 9201545

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain
Minister of the Interior
Ministry of the Interior
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telegrams: Interior Minister, Islamabad, Pakistan

Faxes: 92 51 9201472

Salutation: Dear Minister

President Farooq Leghari

Office of the President

Islamabad

telegrams: President Leghari, Islamabad, Pakistan

faxes: 92 51 9204067/9211018

Salutation: Dear President

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 5 August 1997.