

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 33/021/2006**

**25 May 2006**

**Further Information on UA 127/06 (ASA 33/016/2006, 09 May 2006) – Imminent Execution**

**PAKISTAN**                    **Ilyas (m)**  
                                     **Ghulam Abbas (m)**  
                                     **Muhammad Asif (m)**

---

The three men named above are now scheduled for execution on 6 June. President Musharraf has rejected their mercy appeals, but he still has the power to commute their death sentences.

The anti-terrorism court which convicted them delayed the execution to allow the men's families to complete negotiations with the victims' families, to persuade them to accept payment of compensation in exchange for the release of the men. These negotiations failed, and on 19 May the anti-terrorism court issued new death warrants.

Ilyas, Ghulam Abbas and Muhammad Asif were reportedly sentenced to death in 1998 by an anti-terrorism court and the decision was upheld by the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At least 241 people were sentenced to death in Pakistan in 2005, and at least 31 were executed. Most had been convicted of 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 more 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 sentences of Ilyas, Ghulam Abbas and Muhammad Asif immediately;
- calling on him to institute an immediate moratorium on all executions in the country, with a view to eventual abolition of the death penalty, in line with worldwide trends.

**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 6 June 2006.