

# URGENT ACTION

## MAN EXECUTED DESPITE UNFAIR TRIAL CLAIMS

**Zulfiqar Ali Khan was executed on 6 May, after spending 16 years on death row, despite claims that he committed the crime in self-defence and that he received an unfair trial.**

**Zulfiqar Ali Khan** was executed at 4.30am on 6 May at Adiala Central Jail in the city of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. His family received his body shortly after from the prison and he was buried on the same day.

Zulfiqar Ali Khan was sentenced to death by an Anti-Terrorism Court in Rawalpindi, Punjab province, in 1999. His death sentence was upheld by the High Court in 2001, and his subsequent appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2008.

According to his current lawyers, Zulfiqar Ali Khan committed the crime of murder in self-defence and received an unfair trial. His state-appointed lawyer at his original trial hearing reportedly failed to challenge falsified witness statements that were used by the prosecution against him. Zulfiqar Ali Khan's lawyer was not even present in court when the judge passed his death sentence. It is deeply troubling that the Pakistan government went ahead with his execution, given the procedural irregularities in his trial.

Zulfiqar Ali Khan spent 16 years on death row, the equivalent of a life sentence in Pakistan. During this period, he received over 15 execution warrants. While serving time in prison he educated himself and obtained 48 degrees and certificates. He also educated over 400 fellow prisoners: 27 of his students in prison earned university degrees, 48 graduated from college and 51 obtained matriculation certificates.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances, regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristics of the offender, or the method used by the state to carry out the execution.

**No further action is requested from the UA network. Our sincere thanks to all who sent appeals.**

This is the third update of UA 302/08. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA33/1497/2015/en/>

Name: Zulfiqar Ali Khan

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 302/08 Index: ASA 33/1616/2015 Issue Date: 8 May 2015

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