

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 13/09/93**

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**19 July 1993**

**Further information on UA 216/93, ASA 13/07/93 and follow-up - ASA 13/08/93, 5 July 1993 - Fear of imminent execution**

**BANGLADESH: Munir Hussain**

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Amnesty International is appealing to the highest authorities in Bangladesh to commute Munir Hussain's death sentence for murder which has been upheld by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court. His petition for leave to appeal has been dismissed by the highest court, and his appeal for clemency has been turned down by the President of Bangladesh. The prisoner is therefore at risk of being executed at short notice. Some newspapers in Bangladesh have quoted un-named official sources as saying that the date for his execution has been set for 26 July 1993.

Amnesty International is not in a position to verify reports that the course of justice may have been influenced by undue media publicity. However, the organization is alarmed that the judgement of the Sessions Court which sentenced Munir Hussain to death has reportedly been announced through a loudspeaker for the benefit of pressure groups outside the court who campaigned for the imposition of the death penalty on Munir Hussain. Following the announcement, Roshan Ershad, the wife of the then president, General Ershad, reportedly appeared on the television to congratulate the judge.

Reports also indicate that the prisoner was kept in a "death cell" for convicts during his pre-trial detention which denied him an opportunity to meet with his lawyer before the court hearings began.

Munir Hussain, aged about 34, was sentenced to death in 1990 for murdering his wife, Rima, in April 1989. Munir Hussain's lover, Hosne Ara Khuku, was also sentenced to death for abetting the murder. In July 1992, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court acquitted Hosne Ara Khuku, but confirmed Munir Hussain's death sentence. The death sentence was upheld by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in June 1993.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the most fundamental right of every human being: the right to life.

Amnesty International knows of no execution being carried out in Bangladesh since mid-1992. The organization is appealing to the government and political authorities in Bangladesh for the commutation of Munir Hussain's death sentence and to continue the apparent move away from executions in the country.

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

- urgently appealing to the authorities for the commutation of Munir Hussain's death sentence;

- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty in all cases and appealing to the authorities to continue the apparent move away from executions in the country.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Zia, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Faxes: + 880 2 811 0115 (PM's residence)**

**+ 880 2 813 244 (PM's office)**

**+ 880 2 813 243 (PM's Press Secretary)**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

2) President Abdur Rahman Biswas  
Presidential Secretariat  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: President Biswas, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Faxes : + 880 2 813 243**

**Salutation: Dear President**

3) Ms Sheikh Hasina Wajed  
Leader of the Opposition  
Jatiya Sangsad  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Faxes: + 880 2 833 866**

**Salutation: Dear Madam**

4) Sheikh Razzaq Ali  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Jatiya Sangsad  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Telegrams: Sheikh Razzaq Ali, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Telexes: 672 812**

**Salutation: Honorable Speaker**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

diplomatic representatives of Bangladesh accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 August 1993.