

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/003/2003

EXTRA 16/03 IMMINENT EXECUTION

21 February 2003

PAKISTAN SAEED AHMED (m)

Saeed Ahmed, a schoolteacher from Arifwala, is in grave danger of imminent execution. His execution has been set for 27 February 2003.

Saeed Ahmed, was sentenced to death after being found guilty of raping and killing a twelve-year-old school boy, Shahzad, in 1997. He was sentenced in November 2002 at Shikarpur Court.

President Pervez Musharraf has rejected his appeal for clemency and there are no further appeal mechanisms available.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are no accurate figures available for the number of people currently under sentence of death in Pakistan but Amnesty International has cause to believe that well over 5500 people are being held on death row. In 2003 at least 8 people were executed and another 140 were given the death penalty.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unconditionally as an extreme 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:

- acknowledge the heinous nature of the crime of which Saeed Ahmed was convicted, and expressing sympathy for the family of Shahzad;
- urging President Musharraf to reconsider Saeed Ahmed's mercy petition and commute his death sentence;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and emphasising that the death penalty has never been shown to have a special deterrent effect.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad
Pakistan

Fax: **+ 92 51 922 4768 (if you experience problems please persist as it may be difficult to get through)**

Email: **ce@pak.gov.pk**

Salutation: **Dear President**

and to diplomatic representatives of PAKISTAN accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.