

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/06/98

EXTRA 30/98

Imminent execution

22 April 1998

PAKISTAN Mian Khan

Mian Khan, of Chak Jhumra near Faisalabad, Punjab Province, is to be hanged in the district jail of Faisalabad on 23 April 1998.

Mian Khan was convicted of murder and sentenced to death on 9 February 1989 by the district and sessions court in Faisalabad. The provincial High Court and the Supreme Court of Pakistan have both rejected his appeals. On 4 April 1998 the President of Pakistan turned down his appeal for mercy. Mian Khan was subsequently shifted from the central jail to the district jail where his relatives are permitted to have a last meeting with him on 22 April 1998.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International unconditionally opposes the use of 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. In a resolution adopted in April 1997, the UN Commission on Human Rights called on all states that have not yet abolished the death penalty "to consider suspending executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty".

International human rights instruments contain numerous safeguards against the arbitrary application of the death penalty.

For further information see also: *Pakistan: The Death Penalty*, ASA 33/10/96, September 1996.

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

- appealing to the president to reconsider the clemency appeal and use his powers under Article 45 of the Constitution to commute the death sentence against Mian Khan;
- urging that the death penalty be abolished as it violates the right to life and the prohibition of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
- calling on the Government of Pakistan to ratify relevant international human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, which aims to abolish of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President Farooq Leghari

Office of the President

Islamabad, Pakistan

Telegrams: President, Islamabad, Pakistan

Faxes: + 92 - 51 - 9211018

Salutation: Dear President

Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab

Office of the Chief Minister

Lahore, Pakistan

Telegrams: Chief Minister, Lahore, Pakistan

Faxes: + 92 - 42 - 9200160

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Pakistan accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY