

PUBLIC

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UA 109/04 Imminent Execution

16 March 2004

PAKISTAN Arshad (m)

Amnesty International has received reports that a man known only as "Arshad" is to be executed at Adiala Jail in the city of Rawalpindi on 28 March. He was sentenced to death for the murder of a man in 1998 in the area of Tarnol by District and Sessions Judge Mansoor Ali Khan.

Arshad filed for an appeal after he was sentenced, though this was rejected by the high court in the capital Islamabad. His death warrant has been sent to the Superintendent of Adiala Jail and he could be executed at any time.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases, regardless of guilt or innocent, or the seriousness of the crime. 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 special deterrent effect and carries the risk of irrevocable error. The death penalty is seen as 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:

-urging that Arshad, who is being held at Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, should not be executed;
-calling on President Musharraf to use his powers under article 45 of the Constitution of Pakistan and commute the death sentence in line with worldwide trends to abolish the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President

Pervez Musharraf

Office of the President

Islamabad, Pakistan

Telegram: President Pervez Musharraf, Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 922 4768 (there may be a delay before the fax tone engages)

Email: ce@pak.gov.pk

Salutation: Dear President Pervez 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 28 March 2004.