

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/039/2002

09 December 2002

EXTRA 90/02

Imminent Execution

PAKISTAN

Ashiq Husain (m)
Aqueelar Rahman (m)
Muhammad Abbas (m)
Mushtaq Ahmed (m)
Muhammad Amir (m)
Majid Mahmood (m)

President General Pervez Musharraf has rejected mercy petitions from the men named above. They are due to be executed between 17 and 19 December. It is hoped that international pressure will make the President change his mind.

Ashiq Husain and Aqueelar Rahman were sentenced to death for kidnapping and raping two girls in 2000. They are to be executed on December 17. Mushtaq Ahmed and Muhammad Amir were found guilty of molesting a woman. They are due to be executed on December 18. Majid Mahmood was found guilty of killing a man and injuring his wife during a robbery. He is to be executed on December 18. Muhammad Abbas was sentenced to death for shooting a man dead during a robbery. He is due to be executed on December 19.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are no accurate figures available for the number of people currently sentenced to death in Pakistan but to the best of Amnesty International's knowledge, well over 5000 people are being held on death row.

The organization is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and 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 execution, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- urging that Ashiq Husain, Aqueelar Rahman, Mushtaq Ahmed, Muhammad Amir, Majid Mahmood and Muhammad Abbas should not be executed;
- urging President Musharraf to reconsider the mercy petitions of all of the above and commute their death sentences, in line with worldwide trends to limit and finally abolish the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharraf
Islamabad, Pakistan

Telegram: President Pervez Musharraf, Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 9224768

E-mail: CE@pak.gov.pk

Salutation: Dear President

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.