

PUBLIC

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28 January 2005

UA 25/05 Imminent Execution

**PAKISTAN Manzoor Ahmad (m)
 Muhammad Ishaq (m), his son
 Ghulam Mustafa (m), also known as Papoo
 Muhammad Ilyas (m)
 Muhammad Anwar (m)
 Javed Obal (m)**

Amnesty International has learned that Manzoor Ahmad and his son Muhammad Ishaq, Ghulam Mustafa also known as Papoo, Muhammad Ilyas, Muhammad Anwar and Javed Obal are scheduled to be hanged simultaneously on 8 February. The final hope for the men lies in the constitutional power of President General Pervez Musharraf to grant them clemency.

The six men are imprisoned at the District Jail in the city of Faisalabad. The offences for which they were sentenced to death are not known. Their sentences were confirmed when a District Session Judge of the Faisalabad court issued a death warrant for them. President General Pervez Musharraf has already rejected their official appeal for mercy, but still has the power to grant them clemency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the first half of 2004, 258 people were sentenced to death in Pakistan, and 14 people were executed.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases. 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 more deterrent effect than other punishments 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 Manzoor Ahmad and his son Muhammad Ishaq, Ghulam Mustafa also known as Papoo, Muhammad Ilyas, Muhammad Anwar and Javed Obal should not be executed as scheduled on 8 February at the District Jail in Faisalabad;
- calling on President Musharraf to use his powers under article 45 of the Constitution of Pakistan and commute the death sentence;
- calling for an immediate moratorium on executions in the country, in line with worldwide trends to abolish the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President

General Pervez Musharraf

Pakistan Secretariat,

Islamabad,

Pakistan

Fax: + 92 51 9221422

E-mail: 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 11 March 2005.