

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/002/2004

30 January 2004

Further Information on UA 13/04 (ASA 33/001/2004, 13 January 2004) - "Disappearance"/Fear of Torture

PAKISTAN

Khawar Medhi Rizvi (m)

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Khawar Medhi Rizvi was brought before a magistrate in Quetta, Balochistan on 26 January, and remanded to police custody.

This was the first time he had been seen in public since he "disappeared" after his 16 December 2003 arrest by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). The authorities had denied on several occasions that he was in their custody.

Khawar Medhi Rizvi and two other men were charged with sedition, criminal conspiracy and "cheating by impersonation", for allegedly preparing a documentary film of a supposed Taliban training camp near the border with Afghanistan, using actors. The magistrate remanded all three men to police custody pending the police investigation.

During a further hearing at the magistrate's court in Quetta on 30 January, Rizvi said he was innocent and that he believed that the action against him was intended to damage the credibility of foreign journalists in Pakistan.

**No further action is requested from the Urgent Action Network. We will follow the case through other campaigning mechanisms. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals..**