

UA 146/00

Att

**AFGHANISTAN (PAKISTAN) Mohammad Enam Wak
Farid Bazger**

There are fears for the safety of Mohammad Enam Wak, an Afghan writer and researcher living in Pakistan. On 1 June 2000, gunmen shot and wounded Mr Wak at his home in the Waliabad area of Pawaki, in the city of Peshawar. His publisher and friend, Dr Farid Bazger, and both their families are at risk of further attacks.

Mr Wak was shot twice in the right arm and once in the abdomen by a hooded gunman. He is currently receiving treatment for his injuries in Khybar-Shirpaw Hospital, Peshawar. His situation, which was critical after the shooting, is now stable.

The incident was reported to the police. The authorities have taken no action, however, their stated reason being that no one has been named as the attacker.

The shooting appears to have been triggered by the publication of a book written by Mr Wak, *Afghanistan: Federation System*, in which he debated the formation of a federal Afghan state on the basis of ethnic identity. Mr Wak, who is Pushtun, is well known for his prominent views on Afghan nationalism and is a leading member of the nationalist party, *Afghan Mellat*.

Prior to the publication of the book, rumours were circulating about an imminent attack on the author. Mr Wak had taken a number of security precautions, and his publisher, Dr Farid Bazger, had attempted to withdraw the book from circulation. Copies, however, had already been printed and distributed. The book is believed to have generated disquiet amongst anti-Federation groups in Afghanistan and local authorities in the North-West Frontier Province in Pakistan who may have felt that it advocated a unification of Pushtun communities on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistani border.

To date, the identity of the attackers and their political allies is not known.

Mr Wak is a researcher in political science. He was born in 1954 and graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Kabul University.

He is the author of an unpublished survey which reportedly shows strong support for the establishment in Afghanistan of a national government led by the former Afghan king, Zahir Shah. The book is based on interviews with some 1,000 Afghans living in Pakistan. Twelve months ago Mr. Wak authored a book called *Afghanistan Crisis: the Third Alternative*, published in collaboration with Dr. Bazger. He is also the author of *Ethnic Composition of Afghanistan, Pashto*, published in 1998 by the Sapi Centre for Research and Pashto Development (SCPRD). An English version of this book was published by Dr Bazger's Khatiz Organization for Rehabilitation (KOR) in 1999.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the past few years, a number of Afghans, living as refugees in Pakistan, have received death threats or have been assassinated. More than a dozen such killings have taken place in the Afghan refugee populated areas of Pakistan. The victims have all been Afghans critical of the policies of armed political groups who are believed to be closely linked with the Pakistan army.

To date, none of these killings have been investigated thoroughly and no one has been brought to justice.

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

- urging that immediate, effective and durable protection be given to Mohammad Enam Wak, Dr Farid Bazger and their families;
- urging that a thorough investigation into the attempted assassination be carried out by an independent and impartial body and that the attackers be brought to justice;
- urging that protection be provided to any other Afghans living as refugees in Pakistan who fear that they might be the victim of an attack.

APPEALS TO:

General Pervez Musharraf
Chief Executive
National Security Council
General Block, Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan
Telegrams: **General Pervez Musharraf, Islamabad, Pakistan**
Faxes: + 92 51 922 4768
Salutation: Dear Chief Executive,

Muhammad Shafiq
Governor of NWFP
Governor's House
Peshawar, Pakistan
Telegrams: **Muhammad Shafiq, Peshawar, Pakistan**
Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

and 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 18 July 2000.