

PUBLIC

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UA 202/98 Fear for safety / Possible extrajudicial execution 15 July 1998

PAKISTAN (AFGHANISTAN) Abdul Quader Ashna
Din Mohammad
Nazar Mohammad, assassinated, and
other members of the Afghan political party *Da Solh Ghorzan*

Following the assassination of one of the leaders of the Afghan political party *Da Solh Ghorzan* (Peace Movement Party) in Quetta, Balochistan Province on 9 July 1998, there are growing fears for the safety of other members of the party.

At about 10am on 9 July, two men riding a motor bike stopped at the shop of Abdul Quader Ashna, a deputy leader of *Da Solh Ghorzan*, and asked for him. The shop assistant told them he was not there. The men then got back on their bike but stopped at another shop which belongs to Nazar Mohammad, another deputy leader of the party. He was there. They asked for something to buy and when Nazar Mohammad turned to get the item, they shot him seven times in the back with a pistol. He died instantly. The identity or political affiliation of the assassins are not known.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Da Solh Ghorzan was established in 1990 when the leaders of an attempted military coup in Afghanistan, led by the then Defence Minister, Shahnawaz Tanai, fled to Pakistan. The party states that its aim is to bring peace to Afghanistan by securing the disengagement of combatants, including Afghan military officers, from any active service. According to them, this is done by encouraging the combatants to take up alternative employment, such as opening grocery shops.

Da Solh Ghorzan claims to have some 120,000 members, the majority of whom are former Afghan military personnel. The warring factions in Afghanistan are reportedly antagonistic towards *Da Solh Ghorzan*, which they see as a barrier to recruiting experienced Afghan soldiers to their ranks.

Rumours began circulating about a month ago in Quetta of a hit list naming three of the party leaders: Nazar Mohammad, deputy leader for military affairs, Abdul Quader Ashna, deputy leader for political affairs and Din Mohammad, Secretary. Following the assassination of Nazar Mohammad, the other two have gone into hiding.

They have contacted the provincial authorities in Quetta, seeking protection for themselves and other members of *Da Solh Ghorzan*, but have not received a reply. No serious measures have been taken to investigate the killing of Nazar Mohammad or two other killings in Quetta - that of Abdul Rassol Akhondzada in April, and of Dagarwal Basir on 12 June - which are also believed to be politically motivated.

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

- urging Pakistani authorities to take serious note of the killing of Nazar Mohammad, to investigate it thoroughly and promptly, and to bring those responsible to justice;
- urging the Pakistani authorities to provide effective and adequate protection to other leaders of *Da Solh Ghorzan*, including Abdul Quader Ashna and Din Mohammed, who are feared likely to become targets of political killings.

APPEALS TO: (Please note that faxes can be difficult to get through to and that machines may not be switched on at night. Please keep trying.)

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif
Office of the Prime Minister
Islamabad
PAKISTAN

Telexes: 5742 PMHPK
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Islamabad, Pakistan
Faxes: +92 51 920 8890 / 920 1545
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Chief Minister of Balochistan
Sardar Akhtar Mengal
Office of the Chief Minister
Quetta
PAKISTAN

Faxes: + 92 81 61043 ("please kindly forward to honourable Chief Minister")
Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

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 27 August 1998.