

PUBLIC

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Further Information on UA 271/03 (ASA 33/012/2003, 19 September 2003) - Medical concern/unfair trial/possible prisoner of conscience

PAKISTAN

Rehmat Shah Afridi (m), editor

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Journalist Rehmat Shah Afridi was released on parole on 24 May. He had served nine years of a life sentence handed down in June 2004 by the Lahore High Court when it commuted his death sentence.

He had been sentenced to death in June 2001 for drug-smuggling. Amnesty International believes the charges against him were politically motivated: he was the editor of the Urdu-language newspaper *Maidan*, which had published reports of corrupt government ministers and alleged links between the Anti-Narcotics Force, military intelligence and drug smugglers.

While in prison he had apparently been denied access to proper medical treatment for a heart condition. He was told about his release order while being treated at the Service Hospital, where he had been admitted for treatment on 16 April.

**Many thanks to all who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA Network.**