

PUBLIC

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28 June 2007

UA 163/07 Fear of torture or ill-treatment

PAKISTAN **Ambreen Ahmed (f), aged 33**
Malik Suhail Aslam (m)

Ambreen Ahmed was reportedly tortured and threatened in police detention in the city of Lahore in Punjab province. She is at imminent risk of being rearrested and subjected to further torture or other ill-treatment as a temporary release order is due to expire on 28 June. Her boss, Malik Suhail Aslam, was also detained and tortured in custody.

Ambreen Ahmed was reportedly arrested by police on 19 June, in connection with the death of her cousin, who reportedly committed suicide while visiting Ambreen Ahmed's home. Ambreen Ahmed was held for questioning for six days at the Investigation Department of the Women's Police Station in Lahore. While she was detained, she was reportedly tortured, including by being beaten on her hands, feet and elbows and, was threatened with being suspended upside down, and having her head submerged in water. Police officers also allegedly threatened to rape her and rub salt and pepper into her genitals if she did not confess to having an affair with her boss and accuse him of killing her cousin. She was forced to write and sign a false testimony. She was also forced to nominate a person who could pay what is believed to be a bribe to police in return for her release. After receiving more threats, Ambreen Ahmed named her boss. The boss, Malik Suhail Aslam, was also subsequently arrested and tortured. He is now in hospital receiving treatment for his injuries.

Ambreen Ahmed was granted a three-day temporary release on compassionate grounds on 25 June, to allow her to visit her sick father, who died the same day. Her father, Mohammad Aslam, had earlier been detained for two days in relation to the shooting of their relative, and it is believed that his detention may have been a factor in his subsequent death.

Ambreen Ahmed, who has a six-year-old child, could face rearrest once her three-day temporary release expires on 28 June. She would be at grave risk of further torture or ill-treatment in detention.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, Urdu, Pashtu or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Ambreen Ahmed was tortured in police detention in Lahore between 19 and 25 June, and faces imminent rearrest and further torture or other ill-treatment;
- calling for assurances that Ambreen Ahmed, her family and associates, will not be tortured or ill-treated;
- calling for information on the legal basis for her detention and details of any charges that have been or will be brought against her;
- expressing concern that her boss, Malik Suhail Aslam, was also detained and tortured;
- expressing concern that Ambreen Ahmed was forced to sign a false testimony;
- calling for a full, prompt and impartial investigation into the ill-treatment and torture of Ambreen Ahmed, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharaff
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9221422

Email via website: <http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/Write2thePresident.aspx>

Salutation: Dear President Musharaff

Mr Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao
Minister for the Interior
Ministry for the Interior
Room 404, 4th Floor
Block R, Federal Secretariat,
Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: +92-51 9202624

E-mail: minister@interior.gov.pk
secretary@interior.gov

Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr. Justice Rhana Bhagwandas
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Pakistan
Constitution Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9213452

E-mail: scp2000@isb.paknet.com.pk

Salutation: Dear Chief Justice

Mr Muhammad Wasi Zafar
Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights
Room 305, S-Block, Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad, Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9202628

E-Mail: minister@molaw.gov.pk

Salutation: Dear Minister

Lieutenant General (Retired) Khalid Maqbool
Governor of Punjab
Governor House
The Mall Road
Lahore,
Pakistan

Fax: +92 42 9200016

E-mail: governor.sectt@punjab.gov.pk

Salutation: Dear Governor

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 8 August 2007.