

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: ASA 33/048/2007  
27 November 2007**

**Further Information on UA 301/07 (ASA 33/030/2007, 9 November 2007) Fear of torture or ill treatment/illegal detention**

**PAKISTAN**      **Ayub Qureshi (m)**                    ]  
                         **Ghulum Farid Awan (m)**                ] **politicians**  
                         **Hasil Bizenjo (m)**                         ]  
                         **Yusuf Mastikhan (m), trade union leader**  
                         **Liaquat Ali Sahi (m)**

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On 22 November the five men named above were released on bail. They still face charges of sedition and rioting after they took part in a civil society meeting at the Karachi Press Club on 6 November in which they protested against the imposition of emergency rule by General Musharraf.

The detainees have been active in campaigns to assert the interests and protect the rights of the people of Baluchistan province. The charges against them appear to be politically motivated in an effort to suppress their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Acting in his capacity as Army Chief of Staff, on 3 November General Musharraf suspended the bulk of the Constitution, including the rights not be arbitrarily deprived of life and to be guaranteed a fair trial. He assumed powers to amend the Constitution without any parliamentary procedure and proclaimed a Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO). This order prohibits any court issuing an order against the President, Prime Minister or any person exercising powers under their authority.

Since the imposition of emergency, police and law enforcement agencies have arrested thousands of lawyers, political activists and human rights defenders.

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

- welcoming the release of the five men named above but urging the authorities to withdraw the charges against them;
- expressing concern that the charges appear to have been leveled for political reasons and aimed to suppress their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, calling on the authorities to protect and uphold constitutional human rights guarantees, including safeguards on life and liberty.

**APPEALS TO:**

President Pervez Musharraf  
Pakistan Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan

**Fax: +92 51 922 1422**

**E-mail: via website: <http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>**

**Salutation: Dear President Musharraf**

Dr. Ishrat Ul Ebad Khan  
Governor Sindh  
Governor House  
Karachi, Pakistan

**Fax:** +92 21 920 1218 / 1226  
**E-mail:** [governor@governorsindh.gov.pk](mailto:governor@governorsindh.gov.pk)  
**Salutation:** Dear Governor

Hamid Nawaz Khan  
Minister for the Interior  
Room 404, 4th Floor, Block R, Federal Secretariat  
Islamabad, Pakistan

**Fax:** + 92 51 920 2624  
**E-mail:** [minister@interior.gov.pk](mailto:minister@interior.gov.pk) / [secretary@interior.gov](mailto:secretary@interior.gov)  
**Salutation:** Dear Minister

Syed Afzal Haider  
Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights  
Room 305, S-Block, Pakistan Secretariat  
Islamabad, Pakistan

**Fax:** +92 51 9202628 / +92 51 9201631  
**E-Mail:** [minister@molaw.gov.pk](mailto:minister@molaw.gov.pk)  
**Salutation:** Dear 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 8 January 2008.