

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 33/019/2006

24 May 2006

Further Information on UA 118/06 (ASA 33/014/2006, 04 May 2006) Execution/unfair trial

PAKISTAN

Mirza Tahir Hussain (m)

Mirza Tahir Hussain's execution has been postponed by one month from 1 June, the date on which his execution was to take place. This is to give his family more time to seek a pardon from and to offer monetary compensation to the family of the taxi driver he was found guilty of killing.

Under the Islamic provisions relating to murder in the Pakistan Penal Code, the family of a victim of murder have the right to pardon the perpetrator in which case he or she is released without further punishment.

Mirza Tahir Hussain was tried and convicted of murdering a taxi driver while travelling to the village of Bhubar from Rawalpindi, Punjab Province, on 17 December 1988. The taxi driver reportedly stopped the car and produced a gun, and Mirza Tahir Hussain, who was 18 years old at the time, was reportedly physically and sexually assaulted by the taxi driver. In the scuffle that followed, the gun went off, and the taxi driver was fatally injured.

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

- welcoming the postponement of Mirza Tahir Hussain's execution which was due to take place on 1 June 2006;
- calling on President Musharraf to use his powers under Article 45 of the Constitution of Pakistan to commute the death sentence against Mirza Tahir Hussain on humanitarian grounds;
- calling for a moratorium on all executions in Pakistan, in line with worldwide trends to abolish the death penalty with a view to the eventual abolition of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

President Pervez Musharraf
Pakistan Secretariat
Islamabad,
Pakistan

Fax: +92 51 9221422

Email: <http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>

Salutation: Dear President Musharraf

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Pakistan accredited in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 July 2006.