

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER STILL AT RISK

Leading human rights lawyer Asma Jahangir remains at risk despite the provision of security provided by Pakistan authorities, following an Urgent Action issued by Amnesty International. The authorities appear unable or unwilling to investigate Asma Jahangir's claims that Pakistan's security forces were behind a plot against her life. Deaths of human rights activists have increased over the last year, many of which implicate the military's Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI).

Although **Asma Jahangir** has received extra security for herself, the authorities appear unable or unwilling to investigate the military authorities whom Asma Jahangir claims authorized the plot to kill her "at the highest levels". Pakistan's military and its intelligence agencies have a long history of acting beyond the reach of civil authorities and have been implicated in attacks on human rights activists exposing alleged violations by state security forces. There are reasonable grounds to fear that Asma Jahangir remains at threat of attack despite her public disclosure and the security given to her.

On 4 June, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) alerted Amnesty International to information it had received of a plot by Pakistan's security forces to kill HRCP founder and human rights lawyer Asma Jahangir.

As one of Pakistan's leading human rights defender, Asma Jahangir has been threatened many times before. However news of the plot to kill her is altogether different. The information circulated does not appear to have been intentionally circulated as means of intimidation, but leaked from within Pakistan's security apparatus. Asma Jahangir believes the information is highly credible and has therefore not moved from her home.

Please write immediately in English, Urdu, or your own language, calling on the Pakistan authorities to:

- Continue to provide effective security to Asma Jahangir.
- Promptly conduct a full investigation into the alleged plot to kill her, including all individuals and institutions suspected of being involved, including the Inter-Services Intelligence agency.
- Bring to justice all suspected perpetrators of attacks on human rights defenders, in trials that meet international fair trial standards and without recourse to the death penalty

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 31 AUGUST 2012 TO:

President

Asif Ali Zardari
President's Secretariat
Islamabad
PAKISTAN

Fax: 011 92 51 920 4974

Email using contact form:

<http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/index.php?lang=en&opc=8>

Salutation: President

Prime Minister

Rajaz Pervaz Ashraf
Prime Minister House
Islamabad
PAKISTAN
Fax: 011 92 51 921 3780
E-mail: secretary@cabinet.gov.pk
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Chief of Army Staff

General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani
c/o Inter Services Public Relations,
Hilal Road,
Rawalpindi, 46000
PAKISTAN

Fax: 011 92 51 927 1682

Also send copies to:

Her Excellency Ambassador Sherry Rehman, Embassy of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3517 International Ct NW, Washington DC 20008

Tel: 202 243 6500 (Ext. 2000 & 2001) | Fax: 1 202 686 1534 | Email: info@embassyofpakistanusa.org -OR- ambassador@embassyofpakistanusa.org

Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Asma Jahangir founded the HRCP, a non-governmental organization. She is a lawyer, an advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan. Internationally, Jahangir was UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary Executions from 1998-2004 and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief from 2004 to 2010.

The ISI is the premier intelligence service of Pakistan's armed forces. Amnesty International has documented a number of cases implicating the ISI, other intelligence agencies, and the military over the last several years. Journalist Saleem Shahzad (UA: 270/11, Index number ASA 33/015/2011) was abducted in Islamabad on 29 May 2011 and his dead body found two days later showing signs of torture. In October 2010, Saleem Shahzad had told colleagues that in a meeting with Inter-Services Intelligence agency's (ISI) media wing, he felt he had been threatened, because of his reporting on al-Qaida infiltration into Pakistan's armed forces.

On 4 June, the HRCP issued a statement concerned not that the alleged plot was not only an attempt to silence one individual but the human rights community at large.

Name: Asma Jahangir (f)

Issues: Death threat, Impunity

Further information on UA: 164/12 (7 June 2012)

Issue Date: 20 July 2012

Country: Pakistan