

RAN #45: December 7, 2007

PAKISTAN: Newspaper correspondent shot dead

BACKGROUND: According to PEN Canada's information, journalist **Zubair Ahmed Mujahid** was shot in the stomach by a man on a motorcycle as he was returning home by car with a colleague on 23 November 2007 in Mirpur Khas, in the southern province of Sindh. He died instantly. His elder brother believes he was killed because of his articles criticizing the situation of the poor in the area. Mujahid is the sixth Pakistani journalist to be killed since the start of the year.

Mujahid wrote a weekly column for *Jang* called "Crime and Punishment" in which he was known for his articles critical of the local police and landowners. Two of his previous articles had led to arrests being made.

APPEAL LETTER

Appeals to be sent to:

President Pervez Musharraf
Office of the President
Constitution Avenue
Islamabad
Pakistan
Fax: +92 51 920 3938 / 920 1968 / 811 390

Your Excellency:

As a member of PEN Canada, the Canadian Centre of International PEN, I join the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN in condemning the murder of **Zubair Ahmed Mujahid**, correspondent for the national daily *Jang*, who was shot dead in a targeted attack on 23 November 2007.

PEN Canada is seriously concerned that Mujahid may have been targeted solely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression as guaranteed by Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

With my colleagues at PEN Canada, I urge the Pakistani authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into Mujahid's death and to bring the perpetrators of the crime to justice.

PEN Canada is alarmed that journalists in Pakistan appear to be targeted with apparent impunity, and calls on the Pakistani authorities to take immediate action to ensure that journalists can practice their profession safely.

[your signature and name here]

Please send a copy of your letter to the following:

His Excellency
Mr. Musa Javed Cholan
High Commission for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
10 Range Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N 8J3
Fax: 623-238-7296
parapottawa@rogers.com

Please send a copy of your letter to Canadian officials:

Mr. David Collins
High Commissioner
The High Commission of Canada
P.O. Box 1042
Islamabad, Pakistan
isbad@international.gc.ca

Andrew Barnes
Senior Policy Officer, Pakistan
Foreign Affairs Canada
sandra.rossiter@international.gc.ca

Robert Sinclair
Deputy Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
Email: robert.sinclair@international.gc.ca