

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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Dear Excellency Mr. Ambassador Abdul Hamid,

Amnesty International Norway would like to raise our deepest concern about the scheduled execution tomorrow, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, of death row inmates Shoaib Sarwar, Attaullah alias Qasim and Mohammad Azam. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstance, and asks Pakistan to halt the executions and re-introduce a moratorium on executions with the aim to end the use of the death penalty.

Death row prisoner **Shoaib Sarwar** is set to be executed on 3 February following a new death warrant issued on 23 January in a sessions court in the city of Rawalpindi, northern Punjab. Shoaib Sarwar was convicted of and sentenced to death for murder in 1998. He has been on death row for 18 years in Adiala jail. At the time of his conviction he did not receive a fair trial. Key defence witnesses were never examined by the investigating police officers or presented by his defence lawyer during the trial.

Other death row prisoners due to be executed imminently include **Attaullah alias Qasim** and **Mohammad Azam alias Sharif** scheduled to be hanged on 3 February at Karachi Central Jail, for terrorism-related offences. Since a moratorium on executions was lifted on 17 December 2014, 20 death row prisoners have already been executed and around 500 death row prisoners remain at risk.

Shoib Sarwar's case raises additional concerns which could have further implications. His lawyers assert that he has neither been convicted for a terrorism-related offence, nor sentenced by an Anti-Terrorism Court under the country's anti-terrorism laws. The Superintendent of the Adiala jail is refusing to follow the judge's order to execute him, stating that he has not been convicted of a terrorism-related offence. If the execution of Shoaib Sarwar is carried out, he will be the first prisoner to be executed for a non-terrorism related offence since the lifting of the moratorium. Lawyers are concerned that this would likely open the door for other prisoners who have not been convicted of a terrorism-related offence to also be executed.

Supporters of Amnesty International Norway has today called out against the scheduled executions and we would like to formally present the ambassador with the more than 10 000 signatures so far. Would the ambassador be able to receive the signatures this afternoon, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February?

Kind regards,

Ingvild Gjone Lyberg

Head of Communications, Amnesty International Norway