

Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed was Threatened by MQM

Thursday 15 November 2007, by [AHRC](#) (Date first published: 14 October 2007).

Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Urgent Appeal No. UA-293-2007

MQM Terrorists Attacked, Beat and Injured Sindh High Court Judge Mr. Justice Muhammad Ather Saeed

MQM Gangsters Attacked and Damaged the Cars of Sindh High Court Judges: Mr. Chief Justice Sabihuddin Ahmed, Mr. Justice Azizullah M. Memon, Mr. Justice Maqbool Baqar, Mrs. Justice Yasmin Abbasi, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ather Saeed and Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah

Threats to independence of judges and lawyers - No legal protection - MQM Pressurizing judicial system - No rule of law in Pakistan

<http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2006/2610>

<http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/support.php?ua=UA-293-2007>

<http://www.ahrchk.net/statements/mainfile.php/2007statements/1232>

<http://groups.google.com/group/reportpress/t/4ad332d95ff968ac>

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By Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRChk.net)

Dear Friends:

HONG KONG, China (ReportPress.com) - The Asian Human Rights Commission

(AHRC) has received information from reliable sources that several judges including [Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed], the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court [SHC], were threatened by [Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)], a ruling political party in General [Pervez] Musharraf's [Terrorist] Government on accepting the bail applications of several [illegally] arrested lawyers on 29 September 2007. There were a variety of threats but [Arbab Ghulam Rahim], the Chief Minister of the [Sindh] province [of Pakistan], condoned the actions of the [MQM] ruling party, arguing that the writing against the Chief Justice is the "peoples' voice". It is alleged that the [MQM] workers and leadership of the [MQM] ruling party are involved in the mayhem of May 12, 2007, the killings of two lawyers in recent days and threats to

office-bearers of different bar associations, including attacks on the cars of sitting judges [of SHC].

CASE DETAILS:

According to the information received, one ruling party of the Sindh province, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has threatened Mr. Justice Sabihuddin Ahmed, the Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, on taking cases of members and office-bearers of various bar associations. Mr. Justice Sabihuddin Ahmed has granted bail to the four arrested lawyers, including Mr. Salah-ud-Din [Khan] Gandapur, executive member of the Sindh Bar Council, who had held the protest meeting and rally on September 29 [2007]. This was held in support of injured lawyers and journalists who were severely beaten by police in Islamabad, the capital city of Pakistan, on the occasion of the filing of papers of General Musharraf on September 27, 2007. These [unlawfully] arrested lawyers were booked in bailable offences like, under Sections 107, 117, 142, 382 of the Pakistan Penal Code. After the [illegal] arrests, they were produced before the First Class Magistrate 1, South, Karachi, who refused to grant them bail. The lawyers of the accused persons then went to the house of Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed, Chief Justice, Sindh High Court, in the evening as it was a Saturday and the following day (Sunday) the courts would be closed, to get the bails of four lawyers. (According to judicial traditions in Pakistan, any judge can take the bail applications on the official holidays on urgent matters.) After receiving bail applications, the Chief Justice asked for a comment from [Mr. Anwar Mansoor Khan], the ex-Advocate General of [Sindh] province, on the telephone who also agreed that bail of the accused could not be refused on the charges which are framed against them.

This legal action of [Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed], the [SHC] Chief Justice, infuriated the ruling party, the MQM. He was then threatened on the telephone, after which party workers of the MQM started a smear campaign against the [SHC] Chief Justice by hoisting banners and using chalk to write all around the walls of the [Sindh] High Court building accusing him of taking bribes from the "criminal lawyers" for bails at his resident. When asked by the journalists on the smear campaign against the [SHC] Chief Justice, [Arbab Ghulam Rahim], the Chief Minister of the [Sindh] province, said whilst supporting the campaign that "this is the voice of the people and he has to face it". On these remarks, Registrar, Sindh High Court, issued a Contempt of Court notice to the [Sindh] Chief Minister and [the SHC Chief Justice] formed a five-member bench to hear the Contempt of Court proceedings.

The lawyers are alleging that judges of the highest court of the [Sindh] province have been threatened by reminders of the cold-blooded murders of two prominent lawyers, Mr. Raja [Mohammad] Riaz and Mr. Atique [Ahmed] Qadri. [Advocate] Mr. Raja Riaz was murdered when the workers of the MQM attacked Sindh High Court building on September 10, 2007 and [Advocate] Mr. Atique Qadri was murdered on September 16

[2007], when he addressed and participated in a protest meeting on the murder of Raja Riaz. After these incidents of murder, it is alleged that the [MQM] workers of the [MQM] ruling party are intimidating the offices of different bar associations by threatening to injure or kill their family members.

The Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court [Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed] was also threatened on May 12, 2007, when the Chief Justice of Pakistan [Supreme Court, Mr. Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry] was stopped by the [MQM-PMLQ] Sindh provincial government and by the MQM party leadership from entering the [Karachi] city. During the day, [MQM] armed groups took over control of the city and killed more than 50 people. After this, the MQM held a meeting of its workers in the evening and its leadership including [MQM] party Chief Altaf Hussain, who threatened Chief Justice of Sindh for not blockading the roads to prevent the arrival of Mr. Iftikhar Chaudhry, the then [illegally] suspended Chief Justice of Pakistan.

According to media reports, on May 12, 2007, the party workers of MQM attacked the cars of judges of the [Sindh] High Court. Furthermore, they detained them in the Court building by placing heavy containers around the building and prevented the judges from leaving the Court building before 7 O'clock in the evening. In the morning, when [Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed], the Chief Justice of the [Sindh] High Court entered, his car was beaten with sticks by the MQM workers. The cars of the other [SHC] judges were also damaged, including those of Mr. Justice Azizullah M. Memon, Mr. Justice Maqbool Baqar, Mrs. Justice Yasmin Abbasi, Mr. Justice Muhammad Ather Saeed and Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah. Their staff have lodged complaints before the Registrar of the [Sindh] High Court. Mr. Justice Muhammad Ather Saeed was also injured in the attack [by MQM].

Chief Justice of Sindh High Court, Mr. Justice Sabihuddin Ahmed, then constituted a large bench of [Sindh] High Court judges to probe the incidents of the May 12 [2007] killings; additionally, to investigate why Chief Justice of Pakistan [Mr. Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry] was not allowed to enter the [Karachi] city after clear instructions of the [Sindh] High Court to allow him to enter the city. The MQM was against this action of the Sindh Chief Justice and started abusing the judiciary in the [MQM] meetings. The ministers of the MQM were not following the instructions of the Court and were not attending the Court proceedings after several notices. On September 10, 2007, some 2000 workers of the MQM attacked the Sindh High Court building and stopped the proceedings of the [SHC] large bench, which was hearing the evidences of the May 12 [2007] killings.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Please write to following authorities, demanding to provide official protection to the highest legal officer of the Sindh province and to arrest [all] the perpetrators who are continuously threatening [Mr. Sabihuddin Ahmed], the Chief Justice of Sindh, and other judges of the

High Court of [Pakistan's] province of Sindh. - [11 October 2007].

To support this [AHRC] appeal, please click [the two AHRChk.net Web links] here:

<http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/mainfile.php/2006/2610>

<http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/support.php?ua=UA-293-2007>

(1) MQM-PMLQ Regimes of Sindh Committed Heinous Crimes Against Judges and Lawyers

<http://groups.google.com/group/reportpress/t/4ad332d95ff968ac>

<http://www.ahrchk.net/statements/mainfile.php/2007statements/1232>

<http://www.ahrchk.net>

SHC: <http://www.sindhhighcourt.gov.pk>

SBC: <http://www.sindhbarcouncil.com>

SHCBA: <http://www.sindhhighcourtbar.org>

SCP: <http://www.supremecourt.gov.pk>

(2) All Eyes on the Supreme Court of Pakistan

By Advocate Dr. FAROOQ HASSAN

<http://www.nation.com.pk/daily/oct-2007/14/columns3.php>

(3) Blog of Advocate AMJAD MALIK

<http://www.tribes.com/amsolicitors>

<http://www.tribes.com/overview/42014>

<http://adeebmedia.wordpress.com/2007/05/24/amjad-malik>

(4) India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Arrests Corrupt Billionaire Major General (Ordinance) Anand Kumar Kapoor of the Indian Army for Corruption

http://www.bbc.co.uk/urdu/india/story/2007/10/071014_delhi_dairy.shtml

<http://www.DalitVoice.org>

<http://www.Khalistan.com>

<http://www.KMSnews.org>

(5) Petitions Against MQM Terrorism, Crimes and Barbarism

- <http://www.petitiononline.com/trimafia>

- <http://www.petitiononline.com/altaf>
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/mqmterro/petition.html>
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/doabit/petition.html>
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/12may/petition.html>
- <http://www.petitiononline.com/mushbush/petition.html>

<http://www.teeth.com.pk/blog/2007/05/30/salman-ahmed-speaks-out-against-mqm>

- DW: <http://www.DictatorshipWatch.com>
- PTI Forum: <http://www.moveforjustice.org>
- PTI Lahore: <http://www.ptilahore.org>
- PTI: <http://www.insaf.org.pk>
- LPP: <http://www.laborpakistan.org>
- ANP: <http://www.anp.org.pk>
- PML-N: <http://www.pmlusa.org>
- JIP: <http://www.jamaat.org>
- AHRC: <http://pakistan.ahrchk.net>
- <http://pakistan.ahrchk.net/chiefjustice/index.php>
- <http://www.ahrchk.net>
- ICSSA: <http://www.icssa.org>

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- <http://www.JusticeForum.info>

- <http://hrfweb.blogspot.com>

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- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/justiceforum>

7. ReportPress.com Web-Email Newsletter

<http://groups.google.com/group/reportpress>