



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Human Rights

Dear Member of Congress:

I am writing to bring to your attention my outrage and alarm at the way the Government of Pakistan is treating victims of violence. In recent days, Mukhtar Mai, a victim of gang rape was prevented by the Government of Pakistan from coming to the United States to raise awareness about violence against women in Pakistan. After allowing her rapists to go free, the Government of Pakistan prevented this courageous woman from speaking the truth of her ordeal.

Mukhtar Mai's situation is just one illustration of the unwillingness of the Government of Pakistan to initiate legislative reforms that will improve conditions for women in Pakistan. I urge you to ask the Congress to impress upon the government of Pakistan the necessity for repealing Hudood Ordinance that makes rape victims susceptible to imprisonment if they report the crime. Please ask them to free those unfortunate women who are rotting in prison awaiting trials under Zina ordinance sometimes up to seven years. Please ask him to end Jirgas, and feudalism in Pakistan. Please also express to him, the urgent necessity for the Government of Pakistan to allocate funds for abuse shelters for victims of violence, gender sensitivity training for police and judiciary and public awareness programs that propagate public awareness that violence against women is a punishable crime.

As you know recent earthquake in Pakistan has brought utter devastation and displaced hundreds of thousands of women and children. Please also consider allocating more funds to Pakistan to **uphold your commitment to women's rights in Pakistan and pledge an additional 50 million dollars** in humanitarian aid specifically earmarked for the women and children affected by the earthquake. This is an opportunity for United States to demonstrate to the entire world that its concern for human rights and social justice is indeed real.

As a member of Congress, you can help put political pressure on the Pakistani government to stop silencing victims and start helping them.

Sincerely,

Your constituent