



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

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. The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, will be visiting the United States on July 26, 2005. I urge you to meet with him and impress upon him the necessity for repealing the Zina Ordinance that makes rape victims susceptible to imprisonment if they report the crime. 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 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