



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

MEDIA ALERT

What: Demonstration against the Pakistani Government's Failure to Protect Women from Rape, Murder, and other Human Rights Violations.

Who: Asian-American Network Against Abuse of Women (ANAA) and Amnesty International's New York City Women's Human Rights Action Team.

When: Saturday, September 17th, 2005 , from 12 noon to 3 pm
Best media opportunities are between 1 and 1:30 pm .

Where: Outside the Roosevelt Hotel, Madison and East 45th Street, New York City, where Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf will be staying.

Why: The Government of Pakistan has consistently failed to provide protection for its citizens, especially women, who are denied the most basic human rights. Pakistan has no law against domestic violence, and rape and honor killings are committed with impunity. Two recent cases have received a great deal of publicity. Dr. Shazia Khalid was raped by an army officer who was never prosecuted, and she was forced to seek asylum in the United Kingdom. A tribal court sentenced Mukhtar Mai (also known as Mukhtar Bibi) to gang rape as punishment for an offense allegedly committed by her brother. Pakistan's President will be in New York for the United Nation's World Summit. In an unprecedented protest, human rights activists will gather outside his hotel to demand that he repeal unjust laws and defend the human rights of women against Taliban-like religious extremists.

Speakers: A statement from Mukhtar Mai will be read.
Dr Shazia Khalid (by speakerphone from England); Dr Amna Buttar, Asian-American Network Against the Abuse of Women; Anis Haroon, Aurat Foundation
Purvi Shah, Sakhi; Nisha Varia, Human Rights Watch
Nadia Gareeb, Amnesty International US; Raza Ali Mir, Activist and Scholar
Afrasiab Khatak, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; Sonia Mansoor, Sanctuary for Families; Taina Bien-Aime, Equality Now; Archi Piyati, Human Rights First
Saadia Toor, PAGE - Pakistani Activists for Gender Equality

Visuals: Hundreds of chanting women, men and children; vivid signs with images of victims of violence; powerful speakers.

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