



Asian-American Network  
Against Abuse of Women

### **Mukhtar Mai Statement given via phone on September 16th, 2005**

When the head of the state makes a derogatory statement about rape, it really hurts us. How could Pervez Musharraf say such a thing about his mothers and daughters. A poor woman has just her honor, and why would she want to auction off her honor? It is extremely sad!

General Musharraf gave a statement that he is looking for evidence for my case. What more evidence do they want? It has been three years and I have not gotten justice. Those women who kill themselves after rape; do they get justice?

I see no end to this struggle; I have a long road ahead of me with no destination. Why would I malign the name of Pakistan? Won't Pakistan's name be maligned by his (general Musharraf's) statement?

Women of the world have to unite and fight against violence. We have to unite regardless of race, religion and country. WE MUST RAISE OUR VOICES!

Mukhtar Mai, Pakistan

### **Statement of Dr Shazia for ANAA rally, September 17th, 2005.**

I am very thankful to you all for giving me a chance to speak. I am also a victim of cruel system in Pakistan where thousands other women like me are victimized. To dishonour a woman is like murdering her. Who would know about this more than me? I was dishonoured and now I have to die every day. I am extremely saddened to say that some people don't give humanitarian importance to such an issue, and some people think that in Pakistan, rape has become a means to make money or to get visa to go abroad. When there is a fire and our house is burning, only we can understand how it feels to be with fire. Any way, there are many heart shattering things people have said that make life more miserable. We should make them understand that a woman's honour is priceless and when you lose your honour you become worthless.

I had a very nice and happy life. I was very happy with my career and was very happy in my country, but I am so sorry to say that I did not get justice and I was forced to leave the country. Which woman wants to be kicked out of their country to be away from their loved ones? Who wants to live their life in exile? Which unfortunate woman would wish this upon them? We (women) abhor such fortune and would scorn upon immigration to other countries. All we want is justice!

It is true that women are facing violence all over the world, but to some degree women can get justice in most countries, but in Pakistan when women are subjected to rape, first thing they think about is suicide. They want to annihilate themselves, and there are many such cases of suicide after rape in Pakistan. Women who survive the rape, or are brave and seek justice, and instead they have to face opposition and their character is attacked. Who would want to raise their voice to get justice? Who would want their wounds to

remain open? I am very saddened that all this is happening in my country. We women who were proud of Pakistan at one time are saddened and appalled at the laws and justice that are cruel.

Those parents who raise their daughters with great love and affection, and want to see them happy under all circumstances; ask those parents what happens to their hearts when their pampered daughters are subjected to rape and violence. This pain and suffering can only be understood by those women whose life becomes worse than hell and they are like living corpses where happiness never knocks on their door. May God protect the honour of mothers and daughters of Pakistan and the whole world, and if someone is subjected to violence and they should get justice, and they shouldn't have to face the shame of dishonour.

Khuda hafiz.