



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

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“ANAA TO HOLD RALLY IN NEW YORK CITY”

The Asian American Network against Abuse of Women will be holding a rally in New York City On September 17th 2005 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the corner of Madison Avenue and 45th. The rally is being held to call attention to the human rights abuses that continue unabated in Pakistan: at least three “honor killings” occur each day and a woman is raped once every two and a half hours. Under the feudal system and *jirga* system of so-called “justice” carried out under the banner of religion, Pakistani women and men are denied their basic human rights and dignity. Women are the most victimized members of Pakistani society who pay with their lives and bodies for alleged crimes violating their family or tribe's so-called honor.

Our most recent campaigns have been against the abuse of Zina Ordinance, and Honor Killings. ANAA is determined to bring to fore survivors and victims of human rights abuses in Pakistan and to further our purpose we will highlight the cases of Mukhtar Mai, and Dr Shazia Khalid. Mukhtar Mai was a victim of a heinous crime that was a skewed and wrong justice given by a local tribal council. She has also spoken out and has now become a symbol of hope and an icon for all human beings. Actually, Mukhtar Mai gave inspiration to Dr Shazia Khalid to speak out, Dr Shazia and many others consider Mukhtar their hero.

After being raped while on duty as a physician in Sui Balochistan, Shazia has been maligned and effectively banished from her homeland and forced to take refuge in Great Britain. The alleged perpetrator, an army officer, continues to go unpunished and is a free man. In breaking her silence about her gruesome ordeal and her unfulfilled search for justice, Dr.Shazia Khalid also gives a voice to thousands of women in Pakistan who live daily with the fear of violence and torture on their person.

We are committed to building a global coalition that understands the importance of building a human rights movement across the globe. We are joined in this effort by **Amnesty International USA, NYC Women’s Action Team** as a co-sponsor.

Collaborators and/or Presenters are: **Aurat Foundation in Pakistan, Coney Island Avenue Project, Equality Now, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, Raza Ali Mir (Scholar), Sakhi, Sanctuary for families, and Sherry Rehman (Human rights activist and Parliament member in Pakistan).**

We appeal to the international community and all individuals who care about the cause of human rights to join us in this effort to speak out against the cruel and draconian laws that are being foisted on the people of Pakistan.