



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

Press Release June 28, 2005

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“FINALLY, JUSTICE FOR MUKHTAR!”

The order issued today by the Supreme Court of Pakistan reversing the acquittal of thirteen men accused of raping Mukhtar Mai is welcome news to ANAA. We are overjoyed that this incredible woman, who has become an international figure owing to her courage and determination, has finally reached the end of a long and arduous journey in search of justice.

The incident itself occurred in June 2002, and the long road to this day and the Supreme Court’s verdict has been paved with many astounding obstacles for Mukhtar Mai. She has remained resolute and determined in the face of repeatedly postponed hearings, deliberately shoddy police investigations, house arrest and even being labeled an enemy of Pakistan for persisting in her struggle. Her case which has been flung from court to court represents how the parallel jurisdictions of Civil, Sharia and Terrorist courts in Pakistan, make getting a binding verdict against rapists a nearly impossible task. In their decision today, the Pakistan Supreme Court has finally provided much awaited justice to Mukhtar Mai.

We are convinced also that were it not for the tremendous international pressure placed on the Government of Pakistan, coupled by the work of Non Governmental Organizations within Pakistan that this day would not have dawned. ANAA hopes that the publicity generated by Mukhtar Mai’s case will impress upon the Government of Pakistan, the urgent need to institute legislative changes that promote prosecution of rapists and repeal laws like the Zina Ordinance that punish rape victims instead of rapists.