



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

Asian-American Network Against Abuse of women in Pakistan (ANAA)

Representatives of ANAA and FLP met with the Pakistani Ambassador to the USA, Mr. Jehangir Karamat on March 18, 2005. The agenda of our meeting was to seek justice for Dr Shazia Khalid, and to discuss the discriminatory laws against women in Pakistan. The ambassador responded with great concern towards such cases. He made the case that women do not get justice in assault cases due to lack of police capability to provide admissible evidence for the prosecutors. He believes this leaves an objective court with no other choice but to decide against such cases. He laid blame on the police and the local and provincial government, for the lack of availability of investigative and forensic capabilities at Pakistani institutions. He also cited local political pressures as the reason behind witnesses not coming forward, even when rapes and assaults have taken place in front of an audience of hundreds. The ambassador refrained from any comments on Dr. Shazia Khalid's case till the findings of the judicial tribunal are made public. The ambassador stressed that if justice is not served in this case and in other such cases, then it is indeed a sad day in the history of Pakistan.