



CLA

COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

PAKISTAN: THE IMMINENT EXECUTION OF MIRZA TAHIR HUSSAIN

Statement on behalf of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA)

The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (the CLA) has read with concern the rejection by His Excellency President Musharraf of the request for clemency made on behalf of Mirza Tahir Hussain, a United Kingdom and Pakistan citizen, who was tried and convicted of murdering taxi driver Jamshid Khan while travelling to the village of Bhubar from Rawalpindi on 17 December 1988.

The CLA notes that:

- (1) Mirza Tahir Hussain has been in detention for the offence for eighteen years;
- (2) His conviction by the Federal Shariat Court follows his acquittal by the Lahore High Court;
- (3) Serious concerns have been raised as to the fairness of the trial, sentencing and re-conviction;
- (4) The sentence of death was based on a split two to one judgment with the dissenting judge strongly recommending his acquittal.

The CLA also notes that execution eighteen years following arrest amounts to cruel and unusual punishment.

In the circumstances the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association urges the Government of Pakistan not to carry out the sentence of death imposed on Mirza Tahir Hussain.

Graeme Mew
President
Commonwealth Lawyers' Association (CLA)