



PRESS STATEMENT ON KHIZAR HAYAT CASE

Geneva, 25 January 2017: The World Psychiatric Association (WPA) is extremely concerned over the Pakistani government's plans to execute a severely mentally ill man, Khizar Hayat.

Mr. Hayat was diagnosed as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia in 2008 and has been receiving medical treatment ever since. After eight years of treatment with powerful anti-psychotic medications, Khizar Hayat's symptoms remain as serious as ever. Mr. Hayat has been diagnosed as a case of treatment resistant schizophrenia. Since 2012, Mr. Hayat has spent most of the time in total isolation in his cell at the prison hospital.

Khizar Hayat's case has close parallels with the case of Imdad Ali, another mentally ill prisoner who was set to be executed at the end of last year. In Mr Ali's case, the Supreme Court commented that schizophrenia is a "recoverable disease" and it does not fall within the meaning of "mental disorder" under the Mental Health Ordinance, 2001. Mr Ali's case is still before the Supreme Court.

The WPA would like to reiterate the validity of schizophrenia as a diagnosis. Schizophrenia is listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which mental health professionals the world over use to determine etiology and the symptoms of mental illnesses.

Executing a mentally ill prisoner is not only contrary to international agreements, which Pakistan has signed, but also against the 'Bill of Rights for Individuals with Mental Illness' which the WPA launched on World Mind Matters Day 2016 and which over 60 international organisations have signed up to.

Though we understand that the Lahore High Court granted a stay to Mr Hayat on 11th January 2017, the WPA is deeply concerned that the warrant for Mr. Hayat's execution was issued despite his case being under review by the High Court. Mr. Hayat's execution would be an irreversible miscarriage of justice.

Dinesh Bhugra, President of the World Psychiatric Association said: "Khizar Hayat suffers from a severe mental illness, just like Imdad Ali. WPA calls upon the government in Pakistan to immediately halt any attempts to execute Khizar Hayat and provide him with the necessary medical attention."

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To arrange an interview with Dinesh Bhugra or another member of the WPA Executive Committee, please contact wpamedia@munroforster.com. Visit <http://www.wpanet.org/> or follow us on twitter @wpa_headoffice for further information.