

President Asif Ali Zardari
President's Secretariat
Islamabad,
Pakistan

President,

I am writing to express my concern for the safety of leading human rights lawyer and activist Asma Jahangir. I'm a member of Amnesty International, which has just learned of a plot by Pakistan's security forces to kill Asma Jahangir. Killings of human rights defenders have increased over the last year, many of which implicate Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence agency.

As the founder of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Asma Jahangir has been threatened many times before. However news of a plot to kill her is different. The information does not appear to have been intentionally circulated as a means of intimidation and is therefore believed to be credible.

I respectfully ask that the Pakistan authorities immediately provide effective security to Asma Jahangir and conduct a full investigation into the alleged plot to kill her. This should include all individuals and institutions suspected of being involved, including the Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

I also ask that the authorities bring to justice all suspected perpetrators of attacks on human rights defenders, in trials that meet international fair trial standards and without recourse to the death penalty.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Yours respectfully,