

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2002

His Excellency Pervez Musharraf
President
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Dear President Musharraf:

We are writing to express our concerns about Mr. Ayub Masih, a Pakistani citizen who was arrested in 1996 and subsequently sentenced to death for allegedly violating blasphemy laws.

According to information that we have received, the arrest, trial and sentencing of Mr. Masih appear to have been seriously flawed, and may have been affected by the fact that he is a member of a religious minority group. For example, there are reports that the judicial process in this case was influenced by Muslim extremists who threatened to kill Mr. Masih, his lawyers, and the judge if he was not convicted.

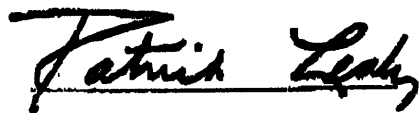
The international community has also recognized that serious irregularities occurred in the proceedings. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention concluded that Mr. Masih was deprived of his liberty in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and has asked the Government of Pakistan to take steps to remedy his situation.

Although Mr. Masih continues to deny making the statements that were the grounds for his conviction, he has been incarcerated in Multan for more than 6 years, where he has reportedly been attacked by other prisoners, denied medical care, and placed in solitary confinement in a cell where the temperature often exceeds 120 degrees Fahrenheit. We are told that his health has deteriorated considerably as a result of his incarceration.

We urge you to use the pardon powers granted to you under the Constitution of Pakistan to release Mr. Masih. We also respectfully request that you provide any information that the Government of Pakistan has concerning the health and welfare of Mr. Masih to the United States Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,





John Edwards

Mark Levin

Robert A. McInerney

Paul Wallsten

Allen Best

Rick Santorum

Barbara Boyer

Thomson

Jim Lange
