



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Local statement on the execution of alleged juvenile Ansar Iqbal in Pakistan

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Pakistan.

Islamabad, 30th September, 2015: In the early morning of Tuesday 29 September 2015 Ansar Iqbal was executed for the crime of murder, despite evidence suggesting that he was only 15 years old when the crime for which he was convicted was committed. Reportedly, the court refused to consider new evidence, which could prove his age, in particular a NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority) issued birth certificate, which stated that Ansar Iqbal was 15 years old at the time of the crime. This adds to a growing number of cases where executions have been carried out in Pakistan for crimes allegedly carried out by juveniles.

The European Union Delegation reiterates that the death penalty for crimes committed by persons below the age of eighteen is contrary not only to Pakistani law, but also to Pakistan's international obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Pakistan should ensure that assertions about the age of convicts are subject to a thorough and impartial judicial investigation considering all available evidence.

The European Union is strongly opposed to capital punishment in all cases and has consistently called for its universal abolition. The European Union urges Pakistan to reinstate the moratorium immediately and to commute the sentences of persons sentenced to death as first steps towards the abolition of the death penalty and to respect fully its international obligations.

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