

I am writing to express my grave concern on Imdad Ali, a death row prisoner with a mental disability, who is at imminent risk of execution. Pakistan's Supreme Court rejected on 20 October his latest appeal to halt the execution on the ground that he has paranoid schizophrenia. As a result another execution warrant might be issued imminently.

I am urging the President of Pakistan to accept Imdad Ali's mercy petition and commute his death sentence, reminding him that international law clearly prohibits the use of the death penalty against people with mental or intellectual disabilities.

I am also urging the authorities to re-establish the official moratorium on all executions in the country as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty, in line with five UN General Assembly resolutions adopted since 2007.

I am calling on them to ensure that any measures taken to combat crime do not violate Pakistan's obligations under international human rights law and that all safeguards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty are respected.

Sincerely yours,