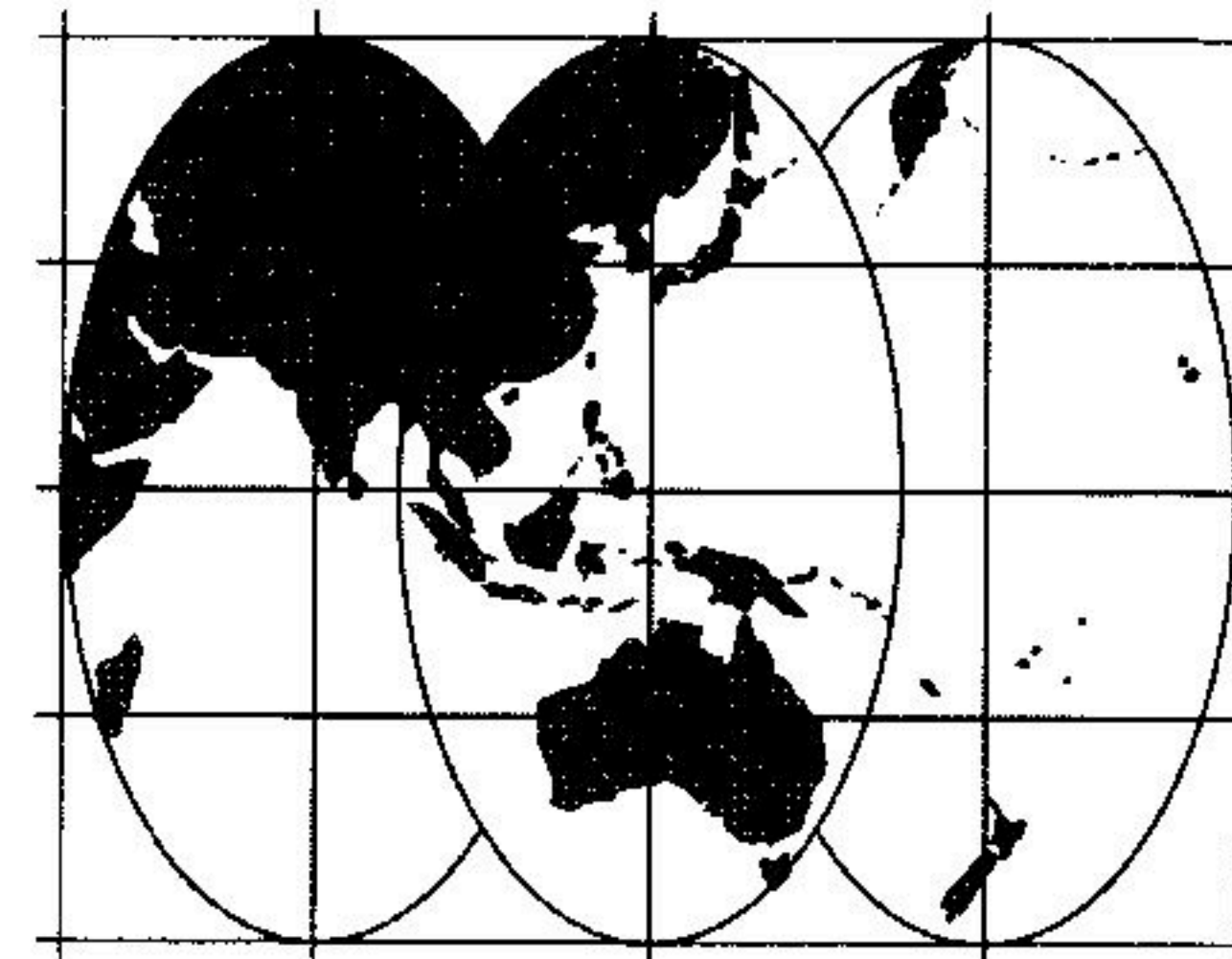


June 18, 2012

His Excellency, Mr Asif Ali Zardari
President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Via High Commission for Pakistan
4 Timbarra Crescent,
O'Malley ACT 2606
AUSTRALIA

and via webmail



LAWASIA

THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Founded in 1966

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Your Excellency

I write on behalf of LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, a regional association of law associations and individual members of the legal community including judges and lawyers from the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

LAWASIA is deeply concerned to learn of recent reports of threats to the life of Ms Asma Jahangir, a former UN human rights special rapporteur, a prominent human rights lawyer, activist and a bar leader in Pakistan.

It urges the Pakistani Government to investigate the nature and source of the threats and to take all possible steps to ensure her protection as well as the security of all human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers in Pakistan, who are an important pillar of efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law.

LAWASIA notes that the United Nations *Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers*, as adopted Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990 specifically calls on governments to provide protection for lawyers as follows:

Guarantees for the functioning of lawyers

16 *Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.*

17. *Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.*

It trusts the Pakistan Government and authorities will take their responsibilities in this respect with the utmost seriousness in order to guarantee Ms Jahangir's ongoing safety, along with that of all Pakistani lawyers.

Yours sincerely

Malathi Das (Ms)
PRESIDENT

cc: The Hon Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani
The Hon Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Farooq Naek

per fax + 92 51 920135