



**British Pakistani Psychiatrists Association  
BPPA**



**16 Hollinview Close Rawtenstall, Rossendale , Lancashire , BB4 8DQ  
United Kingdom**

Tel No: 07507847464

[britishpakistanipsychiatrists@gmail.com](mailto:britishpakistanipsychiatrists@gmail.com)

26<sup>th</sup> October 2016

The Honourable Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Pakistan

**Re: 'Schizophrenia not a permanent mental disorder': SC paves way for  
Imdad Ali's execution Daily DAWN dated 21/10/2016**

**Pakistan Court says 'Schizophrenia not mental disorder' BBC News  
21/10/2016 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-37731083>**

We are very humbly writing this open letter for your attention in the light of the recent judgement as reported in national and international media. This letter is written on the behalf of members of British Pakistani Psychiatrist Association (BPPA).

We would not wish to comment about the judgement specifically but there are a number of points we wish to highlight for your consideration. The primary role of doctors is to cure those who are unwell and to teach the next generation of doctors. Pakistan Medical and Dental Council sets out a detailed code of conduct by which doctors must abide while pursuing these tasks. ( PMDC Duties of Medical and Dental Practitioners).

However the role of a doctor is wider than that. It includes advocating for patients, articulating their needs clearly when they themselves are not well enough to do so, ensuring appropriate services are developed to meet those needs and to demonstrate medical expertise in situations other than patient care, such as providing expert legal testimony or advising governments, as needed. (CanMEDS 2005)

It is in light of these responsibilities that we feel it is imperative that we highlight that Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness well recognized in International Classification of Diseases over the years including its latest 10th edition (ICD-10: F20-29) This condition seriously impairs thinking, behaviour and emotions of

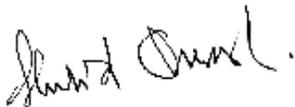
those suffering from this condition. In most cases it causes permanent damage to the personality of those affected by this condition.

Research studies highlight that medications and talking therapies can only help treat the symptoms of schizophrenia but not cure it. Schizophrenia is associated with greater risk of suicide and violent behaviours including homicide. However, these risks can be reduced by providing appropriate treatment and care. Unfortunately, such care is not readily accessible or available to the wider community in Pakistan particularly those within the criminal justice system.

Suffering from schizophrenia does not necessarily exempt a person from being prosecuted but it does need careful consideration by the legal system about issues such as mental capacity of the person and their mental health condition at the time of the alleged offence. The Court could seek the opinion of a psychiatrist to evaluate the above. This will assist the Court in reaching appropriate verdicts and safeguard the human rights of people suffering from mental health problems. The legislative framework is the linchpin which enables society to look after its most vulnerable members and we as psychiatrists must work to support the development of mental health law in Pakistan to ensure this.

In this specific case, we respectfully write to request that a panel of Pakistani Psychiatrists be convened to give an expert opinion on the issues of mental capacity and mental disorder.

Respectfully



Dr Shahid H Quraishi

MBBS, DPM, BC Psych, Dip Psych, MSc Psych, PG Dip CBT, PGC ME, MA HSM, PGC Med Lead

Consultant Psychiatrist

Chairman

British Pakistani Psychiatrist Association