VERY URGENT CALL FOR SIGNATURES - Release Baba Jan! An International Appeal to the Pakistani and Gilgit-Baltistan Governments

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This is a very urgent call for solidarity signatures. Baba Jan, a dedicated activist from Gilgit-Balistan, north of Pakistan, is appealing against a life sentence. His final review petition will be heard by the Supreme Court May 25, 2017. To have an effect, this international call has to be sent Monday 22, 2017 in the evening (European time).

Baba Jan is a political activist in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) facing a life sentence along 12 more at Gahkooch jail. He is a federal committee member of the Awami Workers Party and president of the Progressive Youth Front. He was sentenced on charges of rioting and organising illegal rallies in 2010. His real "crime" was to help the victims of Atta Abad Lake to receive a fair compensation. The lake was established after the land sliding that blocked the path of the river.

In 2010, when the people of Ali Abad, the main city of Hunza Valley, protested for fair compensation for all the genuine victims of the Atta Abad Lake, the police opened fire, killing two protesters, the father and his son. There was immediately very strong protests and people rebelled. Baba Jan was not there at the time. He later joined the protests and tried to cool down the temperature of the mood of the people by organising rallies and demonstrations. It was promised that a police case would be registered against the police officer responsible for firing on the peaceful demonstrators.

Instead, various police cases were registered, under the anti-terrorist laws, against Baba Jan, along over 100 activists from various political parties. Anti-terrorist laws are very often used against political activists in Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan on political grounds.

Baba Jan and his 12 colleagues were sentenced to life in 2014 by the anti-terrorist court - it has never been heard earlier that demonstrators would receive such a sentence for protesting! Later, the High Court of GB acquitted Baba Jan upon his appeal against the verdict.

Baba Jan contested the general elections in 2015 and came second in his home constituency. However, when a bye election was to be held again in the same constituency, after the winner was made governor of Gilgit-Baltistan, and it emerged that no one could match the popularity of Baba Jan, the government went to the Supreme Court and asked that their appeal for Baba Jan acquittal must be heard before the election and the election was postponed.

Later, the Supreme Court restored the life sentence of Baba Jan. Many believed the decision was taken on a political basis, to keep Baba Jan out of the contest.

The Supreme Court will hear a final review petition of Baba Jan on 25th May 2017.

This is to demand that the government of Gilgit-Baltistan withdraw its appeal at the Supreme Court and plead at the Supreme Court for the release of Baba Jan and all others, and to release all of them.

This is also to demand the publication of the judicial commission report on the original incident and the implementation of the recommendations. This judicial commission was established by the GB government itself to investigate the whole incident. Its report was never published.

Signatories

Txema Abaigar, editor Infogaia, internationalist and anticapitalist blog, Spanish State

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Roberto Robaina, Vereador de Porto Alegre, Brazil

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Endou Ryuta, ATTAC Japan (Koutou), Japon

Saito Ikuo, Attac Japan

Zazi Sadou, feminist activist, Algeria

Hilda Saeed, Pakistan

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Yohichi Sakai, Japan Revolutionary Communist League (JRCL), Japan

Pierre Salama, Professor emeritus, Paris XIII University, France

Leonardo Saliga, TRIPOD, Philippines

Merlita Saliga, Mindanao Peoples’ Peace Movement (MPPM), Philippines

Catherine Samary, economist, France

Edgard Sanchez, Partido Revolucionarios de los Trabajadores (PRT), Mexico

Luis Angel Sanchez de Lachina, concejal de Galdakao Orain en el Ayuntamiento de Galdakao, Spanish State

Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Dr David Sanders, South Africa
Sumit Sarkar, retired professor of history, Delhi university, India

Tanika Sarkar, retired professor of history, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

J. B. Sauvage, France

Jakob Schäfer, trade Union activist, member of ISO, Germany

Vincent Scheltiens, historian, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Chris Schenk

Jason Schulman, co-editor, *New Politics*, United States

Glauber Sezerino, sociologue, association Autres Brésils, France

Stephen R. Shalom, *New Politics* magazine, United States

Ahmed Shawki, ISO, United States

Kyoko Shimizu, Asian Health Institute, Japan

Román Sierra, diputado a las Cortes de Aragón (Podemos), Spanish State

Roger Silverman, Newham Momentum, UK

Jonathan Simmel, parliamentary candidate, Red-Green Alliance, Denmark

Kostas Skordoulis, professor at the National University of Athens, Greece

Manos Skoufoglou, member of the Central Coordination Committee of Antarsya, member of the national board of the Association of Greek Architects, Greece

Lidia Senra, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Nicolas Springer, trade unionist SNES-FSU, France

Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM), Malaysia

Socialist Workers League (Nigeria)

Sindy Soler, Executive Director, MTWRC, Philippines
VERY URGENT CALL FOR SIGNATURES - Release Baba Jan! An International Appeal to the Pakistani and Gilgit-Baltistan Governments

Søren Søndergaard /Soren Sondergaard, Red-Green Alliance in Denmark, Member of the Danish Parliament, Spokesperson on European Affairs, Spokesperson on Human Rights

Alda Sousa, Porto University, Portugal

South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), South Asia

Claude Szatan, social activist, France

Pawe? Szelegieniec, social scientist, Poland

Henryk Szlajfer, Professor, Warsaw University, Poland

Fatou Sow, International Director, Women Living Under Muslim Laws

Nicole Taquet-Leroy, School Heard, former member of the Regional Council (Nord) ; (Ensemble), France

Gaspar M. Tamás, former Director, The Institute of Philosophy of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest), Visiting Fellow, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (Vienna)

Josephine Taneo, Ranaw Women and Children Resource Center (RWCRC), Philippines

Daniel Tanuro, ecosocialist activist. Member of the LCR, Belgium

Mohammad Tahseen, Pakistan

Farhana Tekoken, ALTAHR, Philippines

Karel ten Haaf, author and poet, The Netherlands

Laurence Thiery, France

Ovidiu Tichindeleanu, philosopher, Romania

Alan Thornett, Socialist Resistance, Great Britain

Marc John Tompar, MTPYC, Philippines

Luis Torres, directivo sindical, Sinttrakchv, Venezuela

Arnold Torres, TRIPOD, Philippines
Estefanã–a Torres, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

Yen Torres, TRIPOD, Philippines

Eric Toussaint, spokesperson, CADTM-International

Josette Trat, sociologue and feminist, France

Enzo Traverso, historian, professor, Cornell University, United-Stats

Ugo Trevisiol, teacher, FSU trade union Auvergne, France

Juan Tortosa, CADTM-Suisse and SolidaritéS, Switzerland

Yannis Tsiomis, Directeur d'études, Professor, Associate Member, EHESS Paris, France

Marlene Tuininga, Journalist, France

John Tully, writer and historian, Australia

Christian Tutin, Professeur d'économie, Université de Créteil, France

Jason Ulubalang, Teduray and Lambanggan Youth and Students Association (TLYSA), Philippines

Miguel Urbán, president of the Podemos group in the European Parliament and secretary for Europe of Podemos

Igor Urizar Murgoitio, councilor, Arrasate, Spain

Jose Uztariz, Secretario de Jubilados y Pensionados, Sintramenpet, Venezuela

Marie Vabre, Maitre de Conférences, Lille III University, France

Roseline Vachetta, former European MP, France

Lot van Baaren, FNV Dutch Trade Union Federation, member of the Board, The Netherlands

Arend van de Poel, Librarian, IIRE, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Achin Vanaik, Retired Professor of International Relations, University of Delhi, India

JesÃ³s Vargas, directivo sindical sector construcción Carabobo, Venezuela
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Christian Varin, NPA, France

Prof. Lino Veljak, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Flavia Verri, Ensemble !, France

Pedro Vianna, poet, writer, civil society activist, France

Saltarelli Victoria, trade-union activist, Sud Éducation, France

Gabriel Viennet, doctor, member of Ensemble! Mouvement pour une alternative de gauche solidaire et écologique, France

Elise Ville, Employée de Vie Scolaire, Lyon, France

Sébastien Ville, Ensemble ! France

Patrick Viveret, philosophe, France

Tomoko Wada, member of Civil Society, the Earth location, Japan

Vilma Wahid, CONZARRD, Philippines

Alan Wald, Professor Emeritus, Michigan University, Ann Arbor, et éditorial board of Against the Current

Dr Peter Waterman, Senior Lecturer in Politics Programme, Institute of Social Studies (retired), The Hague, The Netherlands

Lois Weiner, Professor, New Jersey City University, United States

Thomas Weyts, SAP-LCR Belgium

Beatrice Whitaker, France

Petter Widén retired metalworker, Sweden

Neel Wijethilak, General Secretary, United General Workers Union, Sri Lanka

Working People Party (PRP), Indonesia

Francis Wurtz, Honorary Member of the European Parliament, France
Very urgent call for signatures - Release Baba Jan! An international appeal to the Pakistani and Gilgit-Baltistan governments

Kei Yamaguchi, Japan

Faizun Zackariya, activist, Sri Lanka

Edwuard Zapata, Secretario General Sindicato de Hidrocentro, Venezuela

Bogusław Zi?tek, president WZZ "Sierpień 80" (Free Trade Union "August 80"), Poland

International appeal launched by Farooq Tariq, Spokesperson Awami Workers Party

Send signatures to ESSF

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