

International Call to be signed - Release Baba Jan! An International Appeal to the Pakistani and Gilgit-Baltistan Governments

A successful first step of the defence campaign – Supreme Court decision adjourned

Thursday 25 May 2017, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#), [Petition / Sign-on Letter](#) (Date first published: 20 May 2017).

Baba Jan, a dedicated activist from Gilgit-Balistan, north of Pakistan, is appealing against a life sentence. His review petition has been heard by the Supreme Court May 25, 2017. To have an effect, this international call had to be sent Monday 22, 2017. Many signatures have been received in just 48 hours, coming from many countries. The call received a big echo in Pakistan.

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The Supreme Court adjourned its decision so the case could be heard after Eid. This was the demand of the defence, so some other senior lawyers will be able to appear on Baba Jan behalf.

The case of fourteen activists facing two life sentences was to be reviewed. The life sentence of two of them is suspended. There will be more time to prepare for the defence of the twelve others.

We continue to collect signatures. They can be sent through the contact page of ESSF website. See “contact” at the bottom of this page or click on this link:
<http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?page=contact>

For more information, click on the key word: [JAN Baba](#)

Baba Jan is a political activist in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) facing a life sentence along with 12 others in Gahkooch jail. He is a member of the Awami Workers' Party federal committee and president of the Progressive Youth Front. He was sentenced on charges of rioting and organizing 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 slippage 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, a father and son. There was a very strong protest immediately and people rebelled. Baba Jan was not there at the time. He later joined the protest and tried to cool down the temperature of the mood of people by organizing rallies and demonstrations. It was promised that the police case would be registered against the responsible police office for firing on the peaceful demonstrators.

Instead, various police charges were registered against Baba Jan alongside over 100 activists from various political parties under anti-terrorist laws. 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 had never been heard before that demonstrators should be sentenced to life for protesting. The High Court of GB acquitted Baba Jan later upon his appeal against the verdict.

Baba Jan stood in 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 GB, 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 against Baba Jan's acquittal be heard before the election and the election should be 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 should hear the final review petition of Baba Jan on 25th May 2017.

This is to demand from the government of GB to withdraw their appeal in the Supreme Court and plead at in the Supreme Court for the release of Baba Jan and all others and to release all of them.

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

Signatories

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Philippe Poutou, NPA candidate, presidential election 2017, France

Harald Probst, Germany

Jesús Puerta, directivo Sindical de Trabajadores de General Motors, Sinvesocv, Venezuela

Ram Puniyani, All India Secular Forum, Mumbai, India

Anne Querrien, sociologue, magazine *Multitudes*, France

Paula Quinteiro Araujo, diputada de En Marea, Galicia, Spanish State

Mahnaz Rahman, member Women's Action Forum, Pakistan

Samina Rahman educationalist, Pakistan

Agustín Ramos, novelista mexicano

Nalini Ratnarajah, Human Rights Defender, Sri Lanka

J.-F. Ravary, France

Renée Ravoteur, Martinique-France

Bodhisatwa Ray, Radical Socialist, India

Alain Raymond, UTOPIA, France

Christiane & Paul Réguer, France

Zia Ur Rehman - National Coordinator Pakistan Development

John Reimann, Oakland Socialist, USA

Félix Relautte, Groupe Révolution Socialiste (GRS), Martinique

Hans-Peter Renk, solidaritéS, conseiller général, Le Locle, Switzerland

Réseau Sortir du colonialisme (SDC), France

Dr Louis Reynolds, South Africa

Jean-Pierre Rigal, Ensemble, France

Julien Rivoire, trade-unionist, Snésup-FSU, Paris 13 University, France

Ritsuko Ichii, Japan

Roberto Robaina, Vereador de Porto Alegre, Brazil

Pablo Rochela, Consejo Ciudadano de Podemos Aragón, Spanish State

Neskutz Rodríguez Ormazabal, spokesperson Grupo Juntero Podemos Diputación provincial Bizkaia, Spanish State

Yimy Rojas, directivo sindical, Ford, Motors, Venezuela

Rina Ronja Kari, Member of the European Parliament, Denmark

Bernard Rosenstein, France

Yolanda Rouiller, philologue, Spain

Luc Rousset, NPA, France

Pierre Rousset, Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF), France

Dr Jeff Rudin, South Africa

William Ruiz directivo sindical, Sinttrachv, Venezuela

Endou Ryuta, ATTAC Japan (Koutou), Japan

Saito Ikuo, Attac Japan

Zazi Sadou, feminist activist, Algeria

Hilda Saeed, Pakistan

Rubina Saigol, Pakistan

Eiji Saitou, ATTAC Japan (Kansai Group), Japan

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

Laetitia Sanchez EELV conseillère régionale Normandie, France

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

Lidia Senra, Member of the European Parliament, Spain

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

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

Adama Soumaré, France

Alda Sousa, Porto University, Portugal

Fatou Sow, International Director, Women Living Under Muslim Laws

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

Claude Szatan, social activist, France

Paweł Szelegieniec, social scientist, Poland

Henryk Szlajfer, Professor, Warsaw University, Poland

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

Martine Thomas-Rousset, France

Ovidiu Tichindeleanu, philosopher, Romania

Alan Thornett, Socialist Resistance, Great Britain

Marc John Tompar, MTPYC, Philippines

Luis Torres, directivo sindical, Sintrachv, Venezuela

Arnold Torres, TRIPOD, Philippines

Estefanía 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 Lambangian 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

Jesús Vargas, directivo sindical sector construcción Carabobo, Venezuela

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

Sally Viegelmann-Rousset, Babaylan, Femmes philippines en 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

Hervé Vullion, trade unionist, FSU, 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*

Dominique Waroquiez, Belgium

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

Peterr 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

Kei Yamaguchi, Japan

Muhammad Yaqub, Pakistan

Sabina Yasmin, General Secretary, Bangladesh Kishani Sabha (BKS), Bangladesh

Faizun Zackariya, activist, Sri Lanka

Edward Zapata, Secretario General Sindicato de Hidrocentro, Venezuela

Bogusław Ziętek, president WZZ “Sierpień 80” (Free Trade Union “August 80”), Poland

International appeal launched by Farooq Tariq, Spokesperson Awami Workers Party
