

Prosecutor told the Supreme Court that three rooms and a Courtyard had been placed at my disposal and that it was a misnomer to call the Death Cell a death cell. Even before being shifted to the Death Cell, I had two serious attacks of malaria and influenza during the winter. I was frequently troubled by stomach upsets and acute headaches. In addition, I developed severe pains in the chest. On three occasions, (...)

(...) Jail Authorities in inflicting psychological and physical torture on me. I was therefore compelled to go on a hunger strike on two occasions in the last four months. The other alternative was death. On the orders of the Supreme Court, a Board of two doctors was constituted to examine me. I believe that the Board of Doctors submitted their report on August 4, 1978 and recommended that about seven to nine thorough tests were required. It is obvious to the

meanest intelligence that such tests cannot be done in any place other than a hospital, most certainly not in a Death Cell. Since conditions in your Jail are far worse than those in the Lahore jail, and due to my debilitating physical condition, I am susceptible to recurring spells of fever, vomiting and bleeding.

(8) On the night of August 25, 1978, I found my gums swollen and bleeding. Pus was oozing out of them. When in the course of a weekly interview, my daughter met me on the morning of August 26, 1978, I was hardly able to open my mouth to talk to her. I was in considerable pain. She was aghast to see my condition. On her insistence, the Deputy Superintendent of Jail was called to see that I needed urgent dental treatment. The same night, Major Hanif Khattak, an Army Dentist, came to examine me. The Army Dentist said it was a serious condition. He gave

Bhutto appeals to UN for human rights

The following is a telegram which former Prime Minister Bhutto gave to his jailers for delivery to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, which was never delivered.

Urgent

Sept. 20, 1978

To: His Excellency Dr. Kurt Waldheim,
Secretary General, United Nations
United Nations Headquarters,
New York, USA

Excellency: As yet another session of the General Assembly convenes in New York to discuss issues of war and peace and presumably human rights, it must know that the elected leader of Pakistan is being subjected to brutal hardships ever since the coup d'état of July 5, 1977. By now friend and foe alike know that a false murder case has been fabricated against me in which I have been in solitary confinement for over a year and in a miserable death cell for over six months in appalling conditions. I am not receiving proper medical treatment although I am urgently in need of it. The conditions are so unbearable that on two occasions I was compelled to go on hunger strikes to protect my honor. My wife was shamelessly attacked and injured on Dec. 16, 1977 at Lahore Gaddafi Stadium. Since January 1978 she has been in detention and solitary confinement. My young daughter was also under house arrest for over six months. My three younger children and a number of close party comrades are in virtual exile. Party leaders of the Pakistan Peoples Party and our workers are in jails by the thousands. Along with journalists, they have been mercilessly whipped in

public. To silence the working classes, the laborers in Multan were savagely killed in January this year.

The conscience of the world community gets aroused when the representative of a firm is arrested for alleged blackmarketing of currency but what happens to the same world community when the undisputed leader of his people is subjected to physical cruelty and mental torture for inter-alia waging a dauntless struggle against oppression, for valiantly upholding the banner of justice for the Third World and for equipping an Islamic state with nuclear capability?

Without exaggeration, I will tell you Mr. Secretary General that I have been treated worse than a Jew would be treated by Nazis or the victims of apartheid in Africa. I would request you to circulate this message to the debonair diplomats at the current session of the General Assembly.

Relevant world leaders are aware of the documentary evidence as to why my life hangs in the balance. This unimpeachable evidence of the last 14 years will show them beyond doubt that my blood, if it spills, will surely stain their hands and that in history they will owe me a debt of blood.

With my highest considerations,

Yours truly,
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

Sent through the
Superintendent of Jail,
Rawalpindi District Jail
Rawalpindi