

24/7-03

-----Oprindelig meddelelse-----

Fra: Karin Davin [mailto:DAVIN@unhcr.ch]

Sendt: 20. august 2003 15:59

Til: Lone Pie Turner

Emne: IFA for homosexuals in Pakistan

Dear Ms Turner,

In reply to your request concerning the above issue, we have received the following information from UNHCR in Pakistan.

Quote

With reference to your email dated 25 June on the subject, asking a question i.e. Could a homosexual male who fears persecution from the above mentioned organizations be protected by the Pakistani authorities if he moves to another part of the country, this is to inform that :

1. Sipah-e-Sahaba is a religious and sectarian organization which has anti-Shia agenda. Its leaders had intolerable feelings against Shias.
2. Lashkar-e-Tayaba is a Jehadi organization, normally operates in Kashmir, considered by India as militant.

Both the organizations are banned after 9/11 by the Pakistan government.

However, their agenda is different in terms of aims and objectives, persecution of homosexual in the context of social taboo to some extent attached to its followers. Such persons, if known, lose their respect and dignity in the community and subjected to humiliation and isolation. These organizations being fanatic believing in extremism rejecting any sort of moderation, there is possibility of homosexuals being persecuted in the context as stated earlier.

Pakistani Law:

Pakistan Penal Code:

Section 377. Unnatural offences.

" Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than two years nor more than ten years, and shall also be liable to fine."

With regard to IFA, it can be availed, similarly if such activity is known to the community, the person is subject to same humiliation and social isolation as explained above, no matter state protection is available or otherwise. It may be seen that homosexuality is a choice rather than force.

Generally, homosexuals do exist in some set-ups and are living without persecution unless the perpetrators are not known to the family of homosexuals. Public in general mainly ignores such behaviour when directly unrelated to them.

Unquote

Best regards

Karin Davin

UNHCR Stockholm