CURRENT STATUS

Aafia was sentenced to 86 years in prison on 5 counts in September 2010, making her eligible for release in 2094 at the age of 122, if she is still alive. She remains at the Metropolitan Detention Centre in New York where she has been subject to humiliating and degrading strip and cavity searches since her extradition, prompting her to refuse legal visits on many occasions. Since March, she has been refused all contact with her family and has not been permitted any letters, phone calls, visits or reading material.

In April 2010, a 12 year old girl was left outside the residence of Dr Fowzia Siddiqui in Karachi by unidentified men, claiming she was Aafia's missing daughter. DNA tests carried out by the Pakistani government confirmed that the girl is Maryam. Senator Talha Mahmood revealed that Maryam had been recovered from Bagram in the custody of an America official, and that she had spent the past seven years in a "cold, dark room" at the base. The whereabouts and welfare of Aafia's youngest child, Suleman, who would now be 7, remain a mystery.

ACT NOW

WRITE TO AAFIA

Letters can be emailed to:
letters@justiceforaafia.org
Messages for her family can be sent to:
support@justiceforaafia.org

Aafia Siddiqui #90279-054,
MDC Brooklyn,
Metropolitan Detention Center,
PO Box 329002, Brooklyn, NY 11232

DONATE

BANK:	Lloyds TSB Bank
ACCOUNT NAME:	Justice For Aafia Coalition
ACCOUNT NUMBER:	41160960
SORT CODE:	30-94-42
IBAN:	GB37LOYD30944241160960
SWIFT:	LOYDGB21112

WRITE TO U.S. AND PAKISTANI OFFICIALS

Eric Holder, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice. 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001, Tel: 202-353-1555,
Email: AskDoJ@usdoj.gov

Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State. 2201 C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20520,
Tel: +1 202 647 4000, Fax: +1 202 261 8577,
Email: questions@friendsofhillary.com

Hussain Haqqani, Pakistani Ambassador to the US. 3517 International Court NW Washington DC 20008,
Tel: +1 202 243 6500,
Email: info@embassyofpakistanusa.org

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Islamabad, Pakistan,
Tel: +92 51 921 0335, Fax: +92 51 920 7600,
Email: smhq148@hotmail.com

Mr. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister House, Islamabad, PAKISTAN,
Fax: +92 51 922 1596,
Email: secretary@cabinet.gov.pk

ABOUT JFAC

JUSTICE FOR AAFIA COALITION (JFAC) was formed in the wake of Aafia's conviction in February 2010 by a group of Muslim women activists in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and Saudi Arabia. JFAC is an umbrella organization which aims to unite and coordinate efforts on behalf of all concerned individuals and organizations striving for justice for Aafia and her children. Membership is open to all, irrespective of faith and location and currently spans five continents.

JUSTICE FOR Aafia COALITION

For further information:
www.**justiceforaafia**.org
info@justiceforaafia.org

JUSTICE FOR Aafia COALITION

Our Sister
Kidnapped. Shot. Falsely Accused.

Our Honour
Raped. Tortured. Humiliated.

Our Dignity
Imprisoned for Life.

Our Response?

Protest. Campaign. Educate. Donate.

'The power you gave them to torture me, rape me and every time allow them to search me naked. I'm dead. I was dead since the very first time I was raped, searched naked, each and every time you need to present me in court – I'm searched naked... leave me alone or send me back to my country, Pakistan.'

- Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

BACKGROUND

Aafia Siddiqui was born 1972, in Karachi, Pakistan. The daughter of a doctor, she moved to Texas in 1990 where she studied at the University of Houston, before transferring to MIT to read biology and thereafter completing a PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience at Brandeis University. In addition to her academic achievements, she also committed the entire Qur'an to memory and was reputed for her work in the community. In this period Aafia married medical student, Mohammad Amjad Khan and had three children; Ahmed, Maryam and Suleman.

Following FBI harassment of her husband, the family returned to Pakistan but in late 2002, only eight months into Aafia's third pregnancy, the couple separated.

DISAPPEARANCE

In late March 2003, Aafia and her three children left their Karachi home to catch a flight to Rawalpindi but never reached the airport. According to the testimony of her son, Aafia and her children were apprehended by more than 15 agents, including members of the ISI and a "*white lady*". Aafia's crying children were placed into one car, she into another, where she was immediately hooded and drugged. When she awoke she found herself tied to a gurney in a place that, she said, could not have been Karachi since the air was very dry.

A week after her disappearance, an unidentified man arrived at Aafia's mother's house warning her to remain silent about their disappearance if she ever wanted to see them again. Their whereabouts would remain a mystery for the next five years.

Whilst a spokesman for Pakistan's interior ministry and two unnamed US officials initially confirmed her detention, within days officials of both governments denied that she was in their custody. In 2004, a year after her disappearance, the FBI would place her photograph on their website as one of their most wanted suspects.

SECRET DETENTION

Aafia described the next five years as a "*living hell*" spent in US secret prisons where she endured horrendous abuse, torture and rape.

- **She was forcibly given injections**
- **Beaten with rifle butts until she bled**
- **Forced to sign false confessions**
- **Walk over the Qur'an whilst naked**

She was also told by her captors that if she did not cooperate, her children would suffer and later stated that her children were tortured in front of her. It is believed that her youngest son may have been killed in custody, since American officials informed her eldest son, whilst in custody, that his brother was dead and Aafia was also reportedly shown pictures of baby Suleman, lying in a pool of blood.

Despite US denials that she was held in Bagram, her claims are substantiated by former prisoners who affirmed the presence of a '*severely disturbed*' female Pakistani prisoner whose screams they would hear day and night, with the ID '**650**'. One such prisoner, Binyam Mohamed, upon seeing photos of Siddiqui following his release, identified her as '650'.

RE-ARREST IN AFGHANISTAN

In July 2008, a press conference led by British journalist Yvonne Ridley in Pakistan regarding prisoner 650, resulted in mass media outrage over Aafia's disappearance.

Within weeks, the US administration reported that she was arrested by Afghan police along with her the 11 year old son, outside the governor of Ghazni's compound, allegedly with handwritten notes that referred to a "*mass casualty attack*" which illogically listed various locations in New York, an explosives' manual and '*various chemical substances*'.

Aafia testified during her trial that the bag in which the evidence was found had been given to her, being unaware of its contents, and that the handwritten notes were forcibly copied from a magazine whilst her children were threatened. Following her arrest, the US alleged that she ran out from behind a curtain unshackled and fired at US officers – none sustaining injuries although she was shot twice in the process. Contrary to the US narrative, the Afghan authorities were reportedly reluctant to deliver her and stated that she was injured in the ensuing crossfire.

Aafia categorically denies picking up the gun or attempting to shoot anyone. Despite the fact the alleged incident took place in Afghanistan and that she is not a US national, she was nonetheless extradited to the US in August 2008 and charged with assault and attempted murder of US personnel. Within a month, her son Ahmed was released from a detention centre in Afghanistan to the custody of Aafia's family in Pakistan.

THE TRIAL

Aafia's trial began on 19 Jan 2010 in a prejudicial environment in Manhattan – being in the vicinity of the Brooklyn Bridge which she had allegedly been planning to attack. Two weeks later, in a shocking miscarriage of justice, she was found guilty on all counts on 3rd Feb 2010, despite the fact that there was no forensic evidence to support the prosecution's case; no bullet holes, shells, no residue from the gun, no fingerprints on the gun, and none being injured save Aafia. Aafia was denied the right to choose her attorney and had been deemed unfit to stand trial previously on the assessment of psychiatrists for both the defence and prosecution.

Furthermore, the testimony of the government's six eyewitnesses contradicted each other. The judge refused to permit any discussion of the disappearance, torture and secret detention of Aafia and her children, yet at the same time allowed the prosecution to introduce statements that Aafia had made to the FBI whilst sleep deprived, under medication and detained at the hospital in Bagram, where she had been deprived of her Miranda rights.

Whilst it was made clear from the start of her trial that she had ***no connection*** to Al Qaeda, she was effectively tried by the media as such.