

PAKISTANI POW'S

The Times

19 February 1973

PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



THE TIMES MONDAY FEBRUARY 19 1973

Pakistani POWs

From Mr K. Ahmad

Sir, The refreshing news that the first group of American prisoners of war have been released within a few days of the ceasefire in Vietnam, naturally turns my thoughts to the Pakistani prisoners of war in India. The ceasefire became effective on December 16, 1971, but no progress has been made towards returning 90,000 prisoners of war, some 13,000 of whom are civilians, including women and children. The Geneva Conventions to whom allegiance was affirmed in the deed of surrender, provided that all prisoners of war should be returned after the cessation of hostilities.

In the meanwhile 47 prisoners of war have been killed in the war camps in India on the pretension that they tried to run away. The report of the International Red Cross which covers only a third of the cases, reveals that at least in a couple of cases shooting was totally uncalled for. The general conditions in the camps have also been described as far from satisfactory, even if the lowest standards are taken as the norm.

All this reveals a situation that constitutes a challenge to the conscience of man all over the world. Would it be too much to expect that the leaders of the western world shall use their influence to ease the sufferings of these 90,000 human beings?

Yours faithfully,

K. AHMAD,
1 Croft Drive,
Wigston,
Leicester.
