

# 'My son is no killer'

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The father of a man on death row has flown to the UAE to protest his innocence. Pyarelal, 70, said his son Subhan, 26, is innocent of murder.

Subhan is among 17 men who were found guilty of murdering a man in Sharjah in a fight about bootlegging - the illegal sale of alcohol.

"My son is innocent. He has nothing to do with the murder of the Pakistani man. I appeal to authorities to release him," Pyarelal told 7DAYS, with tears in his eyes.

The case of the bootleggers, who have appealed against their conviction, has raised international interest, with politicians and human rights activists flying in from both India and Britain. They claim the men have not had a fair trial as they were not aware of the case against them.

Pyarelal said that his son was not even present at the location where the murder took place. "If it had been true he would have told me everything. My son will never lie to me," he said.

Pyarelal, a former teacher, has been accompanied by Mukhvinder Kaur, the aunt of another of the accused.

According to Kaur, her nephew was at work at the time of the murder. "He came to the UAE to repay his debts and to support his family. It is shocking that he has been sentenced to death even though he was not involved in the crime," he said.

The men have all been sentenced to death over the killing of a Pakistani man in Al Sajaa, Sharjah, last year.

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