Tribute Concert Held for Daniel Pearl

Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan - About 150 diplomats, politicians, artists and others paid tribute at a concert by Pakistani musicians to Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was slain in the city by Islamic militants.

Pearl was kidnapped and beheaded in Karachi in 2002 while researching a story on Islamic militancy.

Pakistani vocalist Farooq Ahmed, accompanied by guitarist Amir Zaki, sang of tolerance, peace and harmony during the heavily guarded concert Monday night at the U.S. consular general's residence.

"Daniel Pearl ... left friends the world over wherever he had gone in search of truth to fulfill his professional obligations," said Douglas C. Rohn, the consul general.

He added that Pearl was a talented musician and joined bands wherever he went.

The reporter, who would have turned 41 this month, was working on a story about alleged links between al-Qaida member Richard Reid, the so-called "shoe bomber," and Islamic militants in Pakistan when he disappeared on Jan. 23, 2002. His remains were found in May that year in a shallow grave on the eastern outskirts of Karachi.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, 29, a British-born Islamic militant, has been sentenced to death for his role in kidnapping Pearl. Three other Pakistani associates have been imprisoned for life. All four have appealed their sentences.

Police are still searching for others believed to have been involved. Last month, Pakistani security forces killed Amjad Hussain Farooqi, who was wanted over Pearl's killing, during a gunbattle in Nawabshah town, southwest of Islamabad.

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