

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Public Statement

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### **India: Amnesty International condemns bomb attack on Indo-Pakistan train service**

Amnesty International condemns in the strongest possible terms the bombing of the train service from India to Pakistan on the night of Sunday, 18 February, claiming the lives of 66 Pakistan-bound passengers and injuring scores of others.

Amnesty International's thoughts and sympathies are with the victims of this senseless and horrific attack on the *Samjhauta* (Friendship) Express bound from the Indian capital of Delhi to Lahore in Pakistan.

Amnesty International is dismayed by the fact that targeting civilians in this manner shows contempt for the most fundamental principles of humanity. The *Samjhauta* Express typically carries people wanting to travel to meet with relatives on either side of the Indo-Pakistan border.

Those responsible must be brought to justice in proceedings that meet international standards of fairness, and without the imposition of the death penalty.

#### **Background**

The Indo-Pakistan Samjhauta Express is a bi-weekly train service between Delhi and Lahore, mainly serving people wanting to meet relatives on either side of the border. It was first launched in 1976 and suffered disruptions due to vicissitudes in the relations between the two countries. The year 2000 saw the relaunch of the service but it was discontinued following the attacks on the Indian Parliament in December 2001. The service resumed in January 2004.