

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/022/2001

26 March 2001

Further information on UA 67/01 (ASA 20/019/2001, 19 March 2001) - Fear for safety

INDIA (Jammu and Kashmir) Mohammad Yousuf Sofi

According to reliable reports, Mohammad Yousuf Sofi has been moved to a police station and is being allowed regular access to his family and lawyer. However, he is still at risk of torture and ill-treatment. He has not been charged with any offence, or told why he is in custody.

His arrest caused a public outcry, and it is apparently in response to this that he has been moved from the Special Operations Group (SOG) headquarters at the Airport Cargo Complex to the Kothi Bagh police station in Srinagar.

Mohammad Yousuf Sofi is a member of the political party *Jamat Islami*, which campaigns for Jammu and Kashmir to secede to Pakistan. He was arrested when he tried to join a protest march in Srinagar, organized after Hindu extremists publicly burned the Quran in New Delhi. Other political leaders arrested with him were later released.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in ENGLISH or in your own language:

- urging the authorities to guarantee that Mohammad Yousuf Sofi will not be tortured or otherwise ill-treated in custody;
- urging them to release him immediately and unconditionally, unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought before a court of law;
- urging the authorities to order a full, independent and impartial inquiry into the beating of Syed Ali Geelani at Hyderpora on 17 March 2001;
- calling on the government to introduce all necessary measures, including rigorous human rights training, to ensure that the SOG do not torture or ill-treat detainees.

APPEALS TO:

Dr Farooq Abdullah
Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir
Chief Minister's Office
Raj Bhavan
Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir
India

Fax: + 91 191 545649

Telegrams: Chief Minister, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Mr Ashok Suri
Director General of Police
Office of the DGP
Police Headquarters
Srinagar

Telegrams: Director General Police, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Director General

COPIES TO:

Mr L K Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Room No.104
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
Fax: + 91 11 3015750
Salutation:Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 May 2001.