

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 20/30/93**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 194/93      "Disappearance" in Jammu and Kashmir**

**15 June 1993**

**India      Nazir Ahmed MISRI**

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Amnesty International is concerned about the safety and whereabouts of Nazir Ahmed Misri, who was taken into custody on 7 June by members of the Border Security Forces. Amnesty International fears he is at risk of torture and being killed while being kept in unacknowledged detention.

Nazir Ahmed Misri, a 26 year-old school teacher, son of Ali Mohamed, resident of Zero Bridge, Srinagar was allegedly taken into custody on 7 June 1993 during a military operation by the Border Security Forces in the area of Zero Bridge, Srinagar. He has not been seen since and his family do not know of his whereabouts, although others arrested during the operation have been released.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Since early 1990 there has been an increasingly violent campaign for independence in Kashmir. Armed separatists have kidnapped and killed officials, members of paramilitary forces and civilians. Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concern to the Indian Government about reports of deliberate killings of unarmed civilians by members of the security forces, about widespread allegations of torture and rape by members of the security forces and about arbitrary arrests of suspected separatists, an increasing number of whom are reported to have "disappeared" or to have died in custody. Amnesty International is concerned at the continuing pattern of "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions which are occurring in the Kashmir valley, despite condemnation by officials of such practices.

Jammu and Kashmir Governor, K.V. Krishna Rao, has ordered several investigations into such abuses, in one case leading to charges of murder being brought against the Director of the Border Security Forces (BSF). On 27 May 1993, four Indian soldiers were arrested for allegedly raping a Kashmiri woman. However, investigations are usually carried out by police or army officials rather than by an independent and impartial body and prosecutions are very rare. The government says that action was taken against 230 members of the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir, but has until now failed to give details of the perpetrators, their actions and the nature of the punishments given to them.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that Nazir Ahmed Misri has been detained reportedly by soldiers of the Border Security Force since 7 June 1993 and may be in danger of being tortured or killed in custody;

- urging the authorities to order an immediate independent and impartial inquiry to establish his whereabouts;

- seeking assurances that if Nazir Ahmed Misri is in custody of the security forces that he be humanely treated and be allowed immediate access to lawyers, relatives and a doctor and that he be brought before a magistrate forthwith;

**Page 2 of UA 194/93**

- urging that he be immediately released if he is not charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr S.B. Chavan  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Ministry for Home Affairs  
North Block  
New Delhi 110 001

**Telegrams: Home Minister, New Delhi, India**

**Faxes: +91 11 301 0700/0680 (c/o Ministry for External Affairs)**

**Telexes: 3166427 REND IN**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

K.V. Krishna Rao  
Governor of Jammu and Kashmir  
Office of the Governor  
Srinagar  
Jammu and Kashmir  
India

**Telegrams: Governor Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, India**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Mr Rajesh Pilot  
Minister of State for Home Affairs  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
North Block  
New Delhi 110 001  
India

Mr Dinesh Singh  
Minister of External Affairs  
Ministry of External Affairs  
South Block  
New Delhi 110 001  
India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country. The

World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Austria this month and you can enhance the power of your appeals by also sending copies to the diplomatic representative of India in Austria during June at the following address:

INDIAN EMBASSY:

The Ambassador  
Botschaft von Indien  
Kärtner Ring 2, 1015 Wien  
Austria

**Faxes: +43 1 505 92 19**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 27th July 1993.