

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 20/43/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

*This is a LIMITED action: Please send up to 15 appeals per section.*

**UA 263/92**

**Illegal Detention/Fear of Torture**

**11 August 1992**

**INDIA:**

**Sukhdev Singh, university teacher of physical education**

---

Amnesty International has recently learned that Sukhdev Singh is reportedly being illegally detained by the security forces who have not officially acknowledged his arrest, and relatives have stated they fear he is being tortured.

Sukhdev Singh, a teacher of physical education at Purgguru Nanak Dev University, was picked up by police from Majitha police post on 17 July 1992 outside the University in Amritsar. He has not been officially charged or produced in any court. A newspaper report on 1 August 1992 is said to have reported that the Senior Superintendent of Police has unofficially acknowledged he is being held and interrogated.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of "disappearance" and unacknowledged detention of people arrested in Punjab on suspicion of being members or sympathizers of one of the Sikh opposition groups advocating a separate Sikh state, "Khalistan". In some cases the detainees are eventually found to have died in custody, while others are believed to have been deliberately killed in custody although official reports say they died in "encounters" with the police, or that they "escaped". Even though legal safeguards against unacknowledged detention exist in India's ordinary criminal law and procedural code, they are often simply not adhered to and prisoners are held in unacknowledged detention for weeks and sometimes months.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about reports that Sukhdev Singh is being illegally held and may be ill-treated in custody;
- urging that he be brought before a magistrate immediately, as required by Section 57 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and granted immediate access to lawyers and relatives;
- urging that he be released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial under ordinary procedures of criminal law;
- seeking assurances that he will be humanely treated while in custody.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. Senior Superintendent of Police  
Majitha District Police Station  
Punjab  
India

**Telegrams: Senior Superintendent of Police, Majitha District Police  
Station, Punjab, India**  
**Salutation: Dear Superintendent**

page 2 of UA 263/92...

2. Senior Superintendent of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Amritsar 4  
Punjab  
India

**Telegrams: Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar 4, Punjab, India**  
**Salutation: Dear Superintendent**

3. Mr Surinder Nath  
Governor of Punjab  
Office of the Governor  
Chandigarh  
Punjab  
India

**Telegrams : Punjab State Governor, Chandigarh, Punjab, India**  
**Salutation: Dear Governor**

4. Mr K P S Gill  
Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Chandigarh  
Punjab  
India

**Telegrams: Director General Police, Chandigarh, Punjab, India**  
**Salutation: Dear Director General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 22 September 1992.