

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Execution

9 November 1992

INDIA:

Abdul Ahad Magrey, aged 70

Imtiaz Ahmed, aged 18

On 3 November 1992, Abdul Ahad Magrey and Imtiaz Ahmed were reportedly killed by the Indian security forces in the Batmaloo area of Srinagar, Kashmir. They were shot after armed separatists ambushed a paramilitary patrol. Witnesses report that the security forces used Imtiaz and other residents as human shields and that Imtiaz was shot by them as they retreated from the area. Witnesses claim that Abdul Ahad Magrey was shot after the security forces dragged him out of his house.

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 in their campaign. 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 or their relatives.

In September 1990, the government announced that a screening committee would be set up to examine complaints of excesses by the security forces. Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Girish Saxena, has ordered several investigations of such abuses, in one case leading to charges of murder being brought against the Director of the Border Security Forces (BSF). But such investigations have usually been conducted by police or other officials rather than by an independent and impartial body. Amnesty International does not know of any cases in which officials allegedly responsible for such human rights violations have been brought to justice and convicted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that members of the security forces deliberately killed Abdul Ahad Magrey and Imtiaz Ahmed in the Batmaloo area of Srinagar on 3 November 1992;
- expressing concern at reports that civilians are being used as human shields by the security forces in armed encounters with the militants;

- urging that there be a prompt and impartial judicial investigation of the incident; and that if the members of the security forces are found responsible for the killing of Abdul Ahad Magrey and Imtiaz Ahmed, they be brought to justice;
- urging that the families of the victims be granted adequate compensation;
- urging that all necessary steps be taken to prevent further such killings.

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APPEALS TO

1) G.C Saxena
Governor of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Governor
Srinagar
Kashmir
India

Telegrams: Governor Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Governor

2) Shiekh Ghulam Rasul
Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Chief Secretary
Srinagar
Kashmir
India

Telegrams: Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, India

Salutation: Dear Chief Secretary

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 21 December 1992.