

Public Statement

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India: Amnesty International condemns actions of Gujarat police

Amnesty International has today faxed a letter to the government of Gujarat expressing concern at their actions in detaining around 600 people who were planning to attend a public hearing on the Narmada dam being held today in Maharashtra.

Amnesty International believes that those arrested in Baroda and other parts of Gujarat in the past 48 hours have been detained solely on the grounds that they are planning to exercise their right to freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of peaceful assembly and association. On this basis, the organization is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

In its letter Amnesty International has drawn attention to Articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which provide that everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. These rights are reflected in Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

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For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

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