

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 20/47/97

21 November 1997

Further information on UA 354/97 (ASA 20/45/97, 11 November 1997) and follow-up (ASA 20/46/97, 12 November 1997) - "Disappearance"/Ill-treatment/ Prisoners of conscience

INDIA Riyaz Ahmad Gojri]	activists of the Jammu and
Mohammad Ashraf Dar]	Kashmir Liberation Front
Mushtaq Ahmad Khan]	(JKLF)
Yasin Malik]	JKLF leaders
Javid Ahmad Mir]	
G.M. Hubbi]	
A.K. Hanif]	
G.N. Sumji]	activists of the All
Mohammad Maqbool Wani]	Parties Hurriyat Conference
Mohammad Sidiq Shah]	(APHC)
Ghulam Nabi Kashmiri]	
Bashir Ahmed Quandoo]	
Ghulam Qadir Baba]	
new names:		
Abdul Gani Lone]	senior activists of APHC
Shakeel Bakshi]	

Over 70 further arrests (56 reportedly released following day)

Amnesty International continues to be concerned for the safety of Riyaz Ahmad Gojri, Mohammad Ashraf Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, arrested on 6 November 1997 by members of the Special Task Force (STF). No charges have been brought against them, they have not been brought before a magistrate (though Indian Law requires this within 24 hours of arrest) and have been held in incommunicado detention since. Officials of the STF have reportedly acknowledged that they are in detention at STF headquarters in Srinagar.

On 19 November, in response to a *habeas corpus* petition, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court reportedly ordered STF personnel to grant relatives and lawyers access to the three men on 21 November. However, unconfirmed reports indicate that when the lawyer acting for the three men attempted to gain access to them, this was denied by STF personnel.

Scores more activists, protesting at the arrests of Yasin Malik, Javid Ahmad Mir and others, continue to be arrested on a daily basis. A number of people were arrested today, following protests after Friday prayers, in the Nowahata area of Srinagar. They include Abdul Gani Lone and Shakeel Bakshi, both senior activists of the All Parties hurriyat Conference (APHC). A total of around 70 people were arrested up to 18 November, though 56 of these were reportedly released the following day. Those arrested are reportedly being held in Koti Bagh police station.

Yasin Malik and Javid Ahmad Mir remain in detention in the Central Jail, Srinagar.

According to information available, the eight activists of APHC, arrested during a silent protest on 12 November, remain in detention in Koti Bagh police station.

They were reportedly detained under sections 107/151 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) which provides for preventive detention if there is apprehension of breach of peace (not section 144 as previously stated).

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Riyaz Ahmad Gojri, Mohammad Ashraf Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan unless they are promptly

charged with recognizable criminal offences;

- urging the authorities to ensure that the STF immediately comply with the High Court order of 19 November instructing them to allow the detainees access to relatives and lawyers of their choice and are not subjected to any form of ill-treatment or torture;

if possible, also:

- urging the authorities ensure the right of citizens to peacefully express their opinions without fear of arrest and detention and expressing concern at the suppression of freedom of expression generally;

- expressing concern at the continuing detention of a number of other activists and the continuing pattern of arrests.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: Chief Minister, Jammu, India

Faxes: + 91 191 545649

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

Mr Ali Mohammad Sagar
Minister of State for Home Affairs
Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir
India

Telegrams: Minister Home Affairs, Jammu, India

Faxes: + 91 191 545649

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Mr Indrajit Gupta
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
India

Faxes: + 91 11 301 5750

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 end 1997.