

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**4 March 1992**

**Further information on UA 362/91 (ASA 20/45/91, 30 October 1991) and follow-up  
ASA 20/09/92, 10 January 1992 - Death Penalty**

**INDIA: Raj Gopal NAYYAR**

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Amnesty International has just learnt that Raj Gopal Nayyar, aged 45, was executed in the Central Jail in Jammu on 10 January 1992. He had spent almost ten years in prison, five of which were under the sentence of death. The method of execution was hanging and his body was then handed over to his relatives for last rites.

Mercy petitions and several appeals for reprieve were filed by Raj Gopal Nayyar's wife, Sashi Nayyar, his son and also by the President of Akali Dal (Mann), Mr Simranjit Singh Mann. Sashi Nayyar had pleaded for the court to commute her husband's death sentence to life imprisonment on humanitarian grounds in view of the length of time he had spent under sentence of death and the fact that his execution had been scheduled on four previous occasions. She had also challenged the constitutional validity of the death sentence. Several appeals and mercy petitions had earlier been rejected by the Supreme Court, the Jammu and Kashmir Governor and High Court, and the President of India.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/airmail letters**

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Raj Gopal Nayyar;
- pointing out that the length of time that he had spent awaiting execution and the repeated postponement of his execution provided strong humanitarian reasons for the commutation of his death sentence;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- urging that no further executions be carried out and that all outstanding death sentences be commuted.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) His Excellency  
President Ramaswamy Venkataraman

Office of the President  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi 110 004, India  
**Telegrams: President Venkataraman, New Delhi, India**  
**Telexes: 31 66427 RBND IN**

**Salutation: Dear President**

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2) Mr S.B. Chavan  
Minister of Home Affairs  
4 Krishna Menon Marg  
New Delhi  
India  
**Telegrams: Home Affairs Minister Chavan, New Delhi, India**  
**Telexes: 3161879 FRGN IN or 3161880 FRGN IN**  
**(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

3) His Excellency  
Mr Girish Saxena  
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:** diplomatic representatives of India in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 April 1992.