

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Possible Extra-judicial Execution

27 July 1992

India:

Dhanibai [N]awa Padvi

Amnesty International has recently learned that Dhanibai [N]awa Padvia, aged 35 was shot by forest guards on 13 July in Taloda, a forest area being cleared for resettlement caused by the Sardar Sarovar dam project.

On 13 July, forest guards and police went to the village of Kalibel to evict tribal people from cultivating land in the resettlement area. When they protested, the guards started beating them up and then opened fire, injuring seven and killing Dhanibad [N]awa Padvi. Amnesty International is concerned that Dhanibai [N]awa Padvi may have died as a result of excessive police force, or may have been extra-judicially executed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The development of a major dam, the Sardar Sarovar will lead to the displacement of thousands of people and will submerge thousands of hectares of agricultural land and forest in Gujarat state. A protest movement against the dam by people to be directly affected and supported by environmental and human rights groups in India and abroad has not stopped the government from going ahead with the work. The World Bank is the main international financial supporter in this project and most recently visited the area in mid-July. The World Bank have just published the results of an independent review of the project which concludes that the project is seriously "flawed". Amnesty International's most recent report on India: *Torture, rape and deaths in custody* noted that tribal people are among the groups of people in Indian society that are most vulnerable to human rights violations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams and airmail letters:

- Expressing concern at the death of Dhanibai [N]awa Padvi as a result of police shooting and urging that an independent inquiry be held and the results be made public in full.

- urging that if an independent inquiry finds the police to have been responsible for causing the death they be brought to justice and that the family be granted adequate compensation.

APPEALS TO:

1) Dr Swarup Singh
Governor of Gujarat
Raj Bhavan
Gandhinagar 382 020

Gujarat
INDIA

Telegrams: Governor of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

2) Chimanbhai Patel
Chief Minister of Gujarat
Office of the Chief Minister
Gandhinagar 382 020
Gujurat
India

Telegrams: Chief Minister of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr Lewis Preston
President
The World Bank
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Prime Minister
Mr P V Narasimha Rao
Office of the Prime Minister
South Block, Gate No. 6
New Delhi 110 001
India

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 7 September 1992.