

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 20/43/91

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16 October 1991

Further information on EXTRA 71/91 (ASA 20/42/01, 14 October 1991) - Forcible Repatriation and Fear of Torture/Execution

INDIA:Mr Assadullah Sarwari

According to reports in the Indian press of 15 October 1991, Mr Sarwari, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan, was released from Tihar Jail on 14 October and is still in India, awaiting deportation to any country which will accept him. Amnesty International has also received reports that Mr Sarwari is being held in a house in Delhi, although it is not known if he is under arrest.

Amnesty International welcomes the news that Mr Sarwari has not been deported, but is concerned that he may yet be deported to Afghanistan or to a third country where he may not have effective and durable protection from being forcibly returned to Afghanistan. Amnesty International believes that Mr Sarwari faces an imminent risk of torture or execution should he be returned to Afghanistan. Amnesty International is also concerned at reports that Mr Sarwari's legal counsel is being denied access to his client.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/Telexes and airmail letters;

- welcoming reports that Mr Sarwari has not been deported from India;
- asking the government to clarify whether Mr Sarwari is still in custody, and if so where he is being held and under what legislation;
- urging the government to allow Mr Sarwari's legal counsel to be granted access to him.

APPEALS TO:

1. Mr S. B. Chavan
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001, India

Dear Minister

Telegrams: Minister of Home Affairs Chavan, New Delhi, India
Telexes: 3161879 FRGN IN) via Ministry of
3161880 FRGN IN) Foreign Affairs

2. Mr Madhavsinh Solanki
Minister of External Affairs
Ministry of External Affairs

Dear Minister

South Block
New Delhi 110 001, India

Telegrams: Minister of External Affairs Solanki, New Delhi, India

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of India in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.