

URGENT ACTION

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS RELEASED ON BAIL

Human rights activists Jaison C Cooper and Thushar Nirmal Sarathy were released on bail on 16 March, after being arrested on suspicion of being involved in unlawful activities because they had 'pro-Maoist' materials in their homes. Amnesty International's campaign for them was highlighted in several media reports in India, and may have contributed to raising awareness about their arbitrary detention.

On 16 March, the Kerala High Court granted bail to **Jaison C Cooper** and **Thushar Nirmal Sarathy**, both human rights activists and ordered them not to leave the state without prior permission of the chief judicial magistrate. The court also ordered them to appear before the investigating officer twice a week till the investigation is over.

On 30 January, the Kerala police arrested Jaison C Cooper and Thushar Nirmal Sarathy in Kochi and Kozhikode respectively. The men were arrested under India's principal anti-terror legislation, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The investigating officer in the case told Amnesty International that the men had supported banned armed Maoist groups and were also involved in an attack on the National Highway Authority of India's project office in Kochi on 29 January. However, the investigating officer also admitted that the only existing evidence against the men was that the police had found pamphlets and materials 'supporting Maoist groups' in their homes. Indian courts have stated on multiple occasions that the mere possession of certain literature cannot be considered a crime.

Both Jaison C Cooper and Thushar Nirmal Sarathy have been actively involved in protests against land acquisitions by the state government.

Many thanks to everyone who took action. No more action is required from the UA Network.

This is the first update of UA 52/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa20/1133/2015/en/>

Name: Jaison C Cooper and Thushar Nirmal Sarathy
Gender m/f: Male

Further information on UA: 52/15 Index: ASA 20/1250/2015 Issue Date: 19 March 2015

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

