

URGENT ACTION

HEALTH OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT PRISONER AT RISK
Zabiuddin Ansari, suspected of planning and co-ordinating the 2008 Mumbai attacks, has been on a hunger strike since 5 August protesting against his indefinite and prolonged solitary confinement at the Mumbai Central Prison. He has been held in solitary confinement in pre-trial detention for over two years and eight months.

Zabiuddin Ansari was arrested in June 2012. He is facing trial on charges of planning and co-ordinating the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which killed 164 people and wounded over 300. Zabiuddin Ansari has been on a wet hunger strike (taking liquids but not food) since 5 August protesting against his indefinite and prolonged solitary confinement at the Mumbai Central Prison. His lawyers say his health is deteriorating and told Amnesty International India that he is extremely weak and cannot walk without support. Zabiuddin Ansari is asking jail authorities to remove him from isolation. The state government of Maharashtra has said that the solitary confinement is necessary to ensure Zabiuddin Ansari's safety.

In August 2013, Zabiuddin Ansari petitioned the Bombay High Court in order to end his solitary confinement. The court rejected his plea, stating that the prison management was authorized to take any steps they thought necessary in the interest of the safety and security of prisoners.

Zabiuddin Ansari petitioned the Supreme Court on 4 September. In his petition, he stated that he is being detained in a cell without windows, illuminated only by a high-voltage electric bulb that is never switched off, making the cell seem like a "furnace".

The revised UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners state that solitary confinement for over 15 consecutive days amounts to prolonged confinement and should be prohibited. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture has said that prolonged solitary confinement can cause severe mental pain or suffering, and can amount to torture or other ill-treatment. India's Supreme Court has ruled that solitary confinement can violate the right to life and personal liberty recognized by the Constitution.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to end Zabiuddin Ansari's solitary confinement and ensure he is not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment;
- Calling on them to ensure that he receives any medical attention he may require and has access to an independent doctor of his choice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 NOVEMBER 2015 TO:

Chief Minister, Maharashtra
 Shri. Devendra Fadnavis
 6th floor, Main Building,
 Mantralaya, Mumbai 400032
 India
 Email: sec.cm@maharashtra.gov.in
 Phone: +91 22 22 025 151 / +91 22 22
 025 222 (English or Hindi only)
 Fax: +91 22 22 029 214
Salutation: Dear Sir

Jail superintendent
 B.M. Bhosle
 Mumbai Central Prison (Arthur Road
 Jail)
 J R Boricha Marg, Lower Parel
 Maharashtra, Mumbai 400013
 India
 Phone: +91 22 23 077 372 (English or
 Hindi only)
Salutation: Dear Sir

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
 INTERNATIONAL**



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HEADLINE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: Zabiuddin Ansari

Gender m/f: m

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