

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 13/09/96

28 August 1996

Further information on UA 162/96 (ASA 13/07/96, 1 July 1996) - Fear for safety / Unacknowledged detention

BANGLADESH Kalpana Chakma (f), aged 23, indigenous rights activist

There is still no news of the whereabouts of Kalpana Chakma who was reportedly forcibly detained by security personnel at her home in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh on 12 June 1996.

According to reports in the Bangladeshi press at the beginning of August, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister had given assurances that a judicial inquiry committee would be set up to investigate the incident. However, up until 20 August this committee had not, to Amnesty International's knowledge, been officially established.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- reiterating concern at the abduction of Kalpana Chakma, reportedly by a group of security personnel on 12 June 1996;
- continuing to call on the authorities to establish and reveal the whereabouts of Kalpana Chakma as a matter of urgency. Noting reports of official assurances that a judicial inquiry committee would be set up to investigate her abduction, and seeking details of any progress in such an investigation;
- continuing to seek assurances that whilst in the detention of any state agency she will not be subjected to torture or ill-treatment;
- continuing to urge that she be immediately and unconditionally released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence, in which case she be given access to relatives and a lawyer.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed
Office of the Prime Minister
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Faxes: +880 2 813 244 or +880 2 811 015
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Rafiqul Islam
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Ramna, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Faxes: +880 2 883144
Telegrams: Minister of Home Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Salutation: Dear Minister

Lieutenant-General Mahbubur Rahman
Chief of Army Staff
Army Headquarters
Dhaka Cantonment
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Telegrams: Chief of Army Staff, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

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President Abdur Rahman Biswas
Office of the President
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Faxes: + 880 2 869 160 (Minister of Foreign Affairs: mark attention of President)

Telegrams: President Biswas, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO: to diplomatic representatives of Bangladesh accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 October 1996.