

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/008/2001

23 January 2001

Further information on UA 14/01 (ASA 20/006/2001, 19 January 2000) - Fear for safety / Torture

INDIA (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) GUL MOHAMMAD NAIK
MUSHTAQ AHMAD

Released: MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GABROO

Mohammad Yousuf Gabroo was released on 20 January. The Special Operations Group [SOG], a police division created to combat militant activity in Jammu and Kashmir, continue to hold Gul Mohammad Naik and Mushtaq Ahmad without charge in Humhama village in the Badam district of Srinagar, the state capital.

Mohammad Yousuf Gabroo, who is around 58 years old, was apparently severely tortured while in detention. He has said that he was hung upside down from the ceiling and beaten, and that a heavy metal roller was rolled over his body. Both these methods of torture are reportedly used extensively by the SOG. As the three detainees were held separately, he could not say anything about the condition of Gul Mohammad Naik and Mushtaq Ahmad.

The three men, who work for the State Forest Corporation, were detained by the SOG on 16 January when they visited a police station to report that they had been abducted by the the armed opposition group *Lashkar-i-Toiba*, who had hijacked their vehicles for use in an attack on Srinagar airport. Bilal Ahmad Mir, a fourth man who was detained at the same time, died while in custody. His body reportedly bore the marks of severe torture.

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

- asking the authorities to guarantee that Gul Naik and Mushtaq Ahmad are not subjected to torture or other forms of ill-treatment while in custody;
- urging that they are given prompt and regular access to their families, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require;
- urging that they be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought before a magistrate within 24 hours, or be immediately released;
- urging the authorities to immediately order an independent and impartial inquiry into the death of Bilal Ahmad Mir and the torture of Mohammad Yousuf Gabroo, and to ensure that those found to be responsible are brought to justice;
- calling on the authorities to order impartial, independent and transparent inquiries into all incidents of torture and deaths-in-custody within the state.

APPEALS TO:

It can be very difficult getting through to fax numbers in India. Please be patient and keep trying.

Dr Farooq Abdullah
Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir
Chief Minister's Office
Raj Bhavan
Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir
India
Fax: + 91 191 545649
Telegrams: Chief Minister, Srinagar, India

Salutation:Dear Chief Minister

Mr Sardar Gurbachan Jagat
Director General of Police
Office of the DGP
Police Headquarters
Srinagar

Telegrams:Director General of Police, Srinagar, India

Salutation:Dear Director General

COPIES TO:

Mr L K Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Room No.104
North Block
New Delhi 110 001

Fax:+ 91 11 3015750

Salutation:Dear Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of India: Jammu and Kashmir accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 March 2001.