

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/014/2001

19 February 2001

Further information on UA 364/00 (ASA 20/58/00, 27 November 2000) - Fear for Safety

INDIA Human rights defenders in Andhra Pradesh

Another human rights defender working with the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC) was killed on the morning of 18 February.

Mohammad Azam Ali, the APLC Nalgonda branch District Secretary, was killed by two unidentified men in Nalgonda town. He was about to attend a meeting to commemorate the death of APCLC Joint Secretary T. Puroshottam, who was attacked and killed in similar circumstances in November 2000 (see original UA).

There are reports that Azam Ali's killers are ex-members of an armed group, with links to the two men in judicial custody accused of the killing of T. Puroshottam. Despite repeated appeals, the government of Andhra Pradesh have refused to order a judicial inquiry into the killing of T. Puroshottam, or into the continuing threats against human rights defenders and allegations that police have been actively involved in attacks on human rights defenders, and have employed ex-members of armed groups in their operations.

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

- urging the government of Andhra Pradesh to order a prompt judicial inquiry into the killing of Azam Ali and T. Purushottam, in the light of allegations that those responsible had the tacit and possibly active support of Andhra Pradesh police;
- urging the authorities to give a commitment to ensure that human rights defenders are free to carry out their peaceful activities without fear of harassment;
- asking the authorities to order an impartial investigation into a series of attacks on human rights defenders, now that a second human rights defender has been killed in the state in under four months;
- explaining that Amnesty International calls on armed groups in India to abide by minimum humanitarian standards which prohibit the arbitrary killing of civilians, torture and ill treatment and hostage-taking.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
Office of the Chief Minister
Secretariat Building
Hyderabad 500 022
Andhra Pradesh
India

Fax: + 91 40 345 7824 (Please note it can be difficult to get through to this number)

Email: cmmap@ap.nic.in

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

C. Rangarajan
Governor, Andhra Pradesh

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Rajya Bhavan
Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh
India

Fax: + 91 40 331 1260

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Mr Lal Krishna Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 April 2001.