

UA 183/00

Fear for**INDIA**Sikander Ahmad Mir

Gulshan (daughter of Sikander Ahmad Mir) aged 15

**Abdul Rashid Mir (son of Sikander Ahmad Mir)**

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Sikander Ahmad Mir, his son Abdul Rashid Mir and his daughter Gulshan, aged 15, were taken from their house in Batmaloo, Jammu and Kashmir, during the night of 26/27 June by the Special Operations Group (SOG) a section of the police created to combat militancy. Their whereabouts are unknown. Amnesty International is concerned for the family's safety after a number of recent deaths in custody in the area.

It is reported that the family were suspected of harbouring militants and were picked up by members of the SOG based at Humhama near Badgam in Batmaloo.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In the past few months many people arrested in Jammu and Kashmir have reportedly died in custody. Leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), an umbrella organisation of 23 political parties based in Jammu and Kashmir, went on a 36-hour hunger strike on 24 May in protest at 77 reported deaths in custody and extrajudicial executions since January. Amnesty International has a list of 30 people allegedly killed in custody between 1 and 20 May alone. Some of those who have died in custody were picked up in the Batmaloo area by the SOG. Investigations into allegations of human rights violations are rarely carried out.

Amnesty International wrote to the Jammu and Kashmir government on 24 May urging it to set up an inquiry into the unlawful killings of over 50 people who died in three incidents in late March and early April 2000. The government has not replied.

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

- expressing concern at the arrest and detention of 15-year-old Gulshan and urging that if charged with a recognisable criminal offence provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act be applied and that she be treated in accordance with the Convention of the Rights of the Child or immediately released;
- urging the government of Jammu and Kashmir to give assurances that Gulshan, Abdul Rashid Mir and Sikander Ahmad Mir will not be tortured or ill-treated in custody;
- urging the government to inform the detainees and their families of any criminal charges they face or else release them;
- if there are lawful grounds for detaining Abdul Rashid Mir and Sikander Ahmad Mir, urging the authorities to give them prompt and regular access to their families, lawyers and any medical treatment they may require;
- urging independent and impartial inquiries into all of the recently reported deaths in custody and extrajudicial executions, and that those responsible are brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO:**

Dr Farooq Abdullah  
The Chief Minister  
Office of the Chief Minister  
Raj Bhavan  
Srinagar  
Jammu and Kashmir  
India

**Faxes: + 91 194 452356 / 191 545649**

**(fax lines to India are frequently engaged and callers may received messages that the lines are out of order or not known - please keep trying)**

**Telegrams: Chief Minister, Srinagar, IndiaSalutation: Dear Chief Minister**

Mr P L Handoo

Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Raj Bhavan

Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir

India

**Telegrams: Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Srinagar, IndiaSalutation:Dear Minister**

**COPIES 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 9 August 2000