

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 20/36/93

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Further information on UA 278/93 (ASA 20/35/93, 18 August 1993) - Fear of "Disappearance"

INDIA: Jaspal Singh - Human Rights Activist

A *habeas corpus* petition for Mr Jaspal Singh was heard in the Punjab and Haryana High Court on 1 September 1993. Jaspal Singh was not presented in court on this date. The petition will next be heard on 9 September. The government is required to present Mr Jaspal Singh in court on that day if he is in their custody, which it continues to deny. However, witnesses have reported that he was taken away by the Punjab or Chandigarh police around 4.30pm on 16 August 1993, just after leaving home.

Amnesty International was aware of previous attempts to harass Mr Singh when it cabled the Chief Minister of Punjab on the 28 April expressing concern for his safety after his home had been raided by dozens of policemen the previous day. Amnesty has not received a response to its requests for official assurances that Mr Singh would not be harassed for lawful civil liberties activities and that any investigations take place with all necessary legal guarantees.

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

- expressing concern that police continue to deny the detention of Jaspal Singh and have not presented him in court despite witnesses reporting he was taken away by the police at around 4.30 pm on 16 August 1993;

- requesting that the government make every possible effort to locate him and if he is indeed found in detention, that he be immediately released or charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought promptly to trial.

APPEALS TO:

1) Beant Singh
Chief Minister of Punjab
Office of the Chief Minister
Chandigarh
Punjab
India

Telegrams: Chief Minister of Punjab, Chandigarh, Punjab, India

Faxes: +91 172 540 647

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

2) Mr K.P.S Gill
Director General of Police
Police Headquarters
Chandigarh
Punjab
India

Telegrams: Director General Police, Chandigarh. Punjab, India

Salutation: Dear Director General of Police

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr Rajesh Pilot
Minister of State for Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
India

Mr Dinesh Singh
Minister for External Affairs
Ministry for External Affairs
South 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 15 October 1993.