

Media Advisory

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India: Open letter to Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

In light of the escalation of violence in Jammu and Kashmir, Amnesty International today sent an Open Letter to Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah on his government's failure to investigate recent killings of civilians.

Under international human rights law, everyone has the right to legal redress for abuses suffered. The state government is obliged to set up an independent and impartial inquiry into the killing of at least 100 civilians on 1 and 2 August. The failure to bring perpetrators of human rights abuses to justice results in a climate in which more and more human rights violations are committed, Amnesty International pointed out.

Following eyewitness reports that security personnel indiscriminately fired on Hindu pilgrims in Pahalgam, Amnesty International also urges the Chief Minister to ensure that security forces are fully trained in the lawful use of force in accordance with international standards.

The letter calls on the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to break the cycle of impunity and take steps to end further abuses by setting up independent and impartial investigations into killings of civilians and deaths in custody.

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For a copy of the open letter, please contact Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5729
Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW web : <http://www.amnesty.org>