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Hyderabad bombings must bring prompt and effective investigation

POSTED BY **CHRISTINE MEHTA** 79.80AC ON FEBRUARY 23, 2013 ·

The Indian government must launch a prompt, effective and transparent investigation into the devastating twin bomb attack that killed at least 16 and injured over a hundred in Hyderabad on Thursday, Amnesty International said.

"The deliberate targeting of civilians shows an utter disregard for human life," said G. Ananthapadmanabhan, Chief Executive of Amnesty International India.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of those killed or injured in the attacks."

The Andhra Pradesh police said the two bombs were placed on bicycles in a crowded area in the city. The first bomb went off at around 7 pm near the Konark Theatre in Dilsukhnagar. A second exploded after a few minutes near the Venkatadri theatre, a few metres away. No individual or group has claimed responsibility.

Ananthapadmanabhan said:

"The victims of these attacks have a right to justice and reparations. Authorities must conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the attacks.

"In doing so, they must protect minority communities from the discrimination, violence and harassment they often suffer in the aftermath of an attack."

In January 2012, the Andhra Pradesh government awarded compensation to 61 Muslim men who were wrongly implicated in a bomb attack on the Mecca mosque in Hyderabad in 2007. Many of them had been detained without charge and subjected to torture. No action was taken against those responsible for the torture.

"Shoddy investigations and unlawful police practices can violate the fair trial rights of suspects, and also the victims' right to justice," said Ananthapadmanabhan. "The authorities must bring those responsible for the attacks to justice in fair trial proceedings in line with international human rights standards, without recourse to the death penalty."

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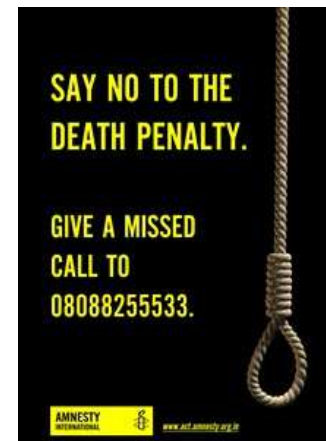
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