

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 20/44/93  
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23 November 1993

Further information on UA 366/93 (ASA 20/40/93, 14 October 1993) -  
"Disappearance" / Fear of Torture

INDIA: Mokham Singh  
Gurnam Kaur (female)

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Amnesty International remains concerned for the life and safety of Mokham Singh who has been taken into the custody of the Punjab police following his appearance in court today, 23 November 1993.

Mokham Singh was produced in the Metropolitan Magistrates court on 23 November, the government having acknowledged his arrest, but claiming this took place on 10 November. The Metropolitan magistrate authorized Mokham Singh to be held in custody of the Punjab police, who took him away to an unknown destination.

According to Amnesty International's information he was taken by plainclothes men on 4 October and his whereabouts remained unknown for over one month.

In a First Information Report dated 10 November, the authorities stated that Mokham Singh was arrested from Civil Lines police area, Delhi on 10 November and found to be in possession of arms and ammunition. He was produced in court on 11 November by the Operations Cell Special Branch of Delhi police. The court granted permission to remand him in police custody until 25 November. Without any prior notice to his lawyer, Mokham Singh was produced in court on 23 November when police from Civil Lines, Ludhiana, Punjab, were granted permission to keep him in custody.

On 23 November his lawyer approached the court expressing concern that Mokham Singh may be killed by the police. They asked that the court order him to be kept in shackles to offer him some protection from being killed in custody, since the Punjab police has falsely claimed in numerous cases that detainees were shot while trying to "escape" from custody.

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

- noting that Mokham Singh's arrest and detention has now been acknowledged but expressing concern for his safety in the custody of the Punjab police;
- urging the government to disclose where Mokham Singh has been taken;
- urging that he be given immediate and regular access to a lawyer and his relatives;
- expressing concern at reports that he was apparently kept in unacknowledged detention for more than one month following his reported arrest by plainclothes men in Tilak Nagar Market; Also requesting clarification as to his whereabouts during the period 4 October to 11 November 1993;

**APPEALS TO**

1) Chief Minister of Punjab

Beant Singh

Chief Minister of Punjab

Office of the Chief Minister

Chandigarh, Punjab, India

**Telegrams: Chief Minister, Chandigarh, Punjab, India****Faxes: +91 11 172 540 647 ATTENTION CHIEF MINISTER****Salutation: Dear Chief Minister**2) Director General of Police

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:**Minister for Home Affairs

Mr S.B. Chavan

Minister for Home Affairs

Ministry for Home Affairs

North Block

New Delhi 110 001, India

Minster of External Affairs

Mr Dinesh Singh

Minister of External Affairs

Ministry of 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 4 January 1994.