

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 20/52/92**

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**9 October 1992**

**Further information on Extra 80/92 (ASA 20/51/92, 8 October 1992) - Death Penalty**

**INDIA: Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha  
Harjinder Singh alias Jinda**

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Sukhdev Singh and Harjinder Singh were executed by hanging at 4am (indian time), 2330 (GMT) on 9 October 1992 at Pune jail Maharashtra. The Supreme Court rejected a last minute appeal challenging their death sentences yesterday. They had been sentenced to death for murdering General A. Vaidya in August 1986 and pleaded guilty.

Although the two men had been acquitted of charges brought against them under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and were sentenced to death for murder under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, they were nevertheless tried by a designated court established under TADA and the special procedures initiated under that special law - permitting trial, in jail, in camera, with only one appeal, to the Supreme Court of India - reportedly continued to be applied in their case.

While Amnesty International recognizes the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for the crimes for which the men were convicted, it opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is the ultimate violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. The organization deeply regrets that the two men have been executed and calls on the President to commute any outstanding or future death sentences.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters:**

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Sukhdev Singh and Harjinder Singh and urging the President to commute any outstanding or future death sentences
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- expressing concern that, although convicted of murder under the ordinary provisions of law, the two men were executed after a trial held in camera,

in jail, by a designated court established under the special procedures of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, reducing appeal to the Supreme Court only.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1. President

Mr Shankar Dayal Sharma  
Office of the President  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi 110 004

**Telegrams: President Dayal Sharam New Delhi, India**

**Telexes: 31 66427 RBND IN**

**Faxes: +11 301 72 90**

**Salutation: Dear President**

2. Governor of Maharashtra

C. Subramanian  
Governor of Maharashtra  
Office of the Governor  
Raj Bhavan  
Bombay 400 006  
India

**Telegrams: Governor of Maharashtra, Raj Bhavan, Bombay, India**

**Telephone: +22 3632 660**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Mr S.B. Chavan  
Minister of Home Affairs  
Ministry for Home Affairs  
North Block  
New Delhi  
India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**