

PUBLIC

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Fear for

INDIA Jabeda Khatoon (f)

Jabeda Khatoon, whose son died in police custody in 1995, has been harassed and threatened by police officers. On 15 November she received a message ordering her to report to a police officer. She was advised not to go by a local NGO for fear of further threats and harassment. Amnesty International believes she is in danger.

Her son Mohammad Alam, 25, was arrested in March 1995. The police said they would release him if she paid Rs. 4000 (US\$86). Jabeda Khatoon earns Rs.150 (US\$3) a month, and could not afford to pay. The police allegedly called her to the station several times, where they beat her son in front of her and abused her physically and verbally. Mohammad Alam died of his injuries on 10 April in Presidency Jail Hospital, Kolkatta (formerly known as Calcutta).

She has filed charges against the officers, and a lower court has issued warrants for their arrest, but they are still at liberty and have not been suspended from duty. They have reportedly made repeated offers to settle out of court for Rs. 50,000 (US\$1,500). Jabeda Khatoon has refused to accept the money and drop the case.

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

- urging that the officers charged in connection with the death of Mohammad Alam, and any found to have harassed Jabeda Khatoon, be suspended from duty immediately;
- urging the authorities to provide Jabeda Khatoon with full police protection;
- urging that Jabeda Khatoon be granted adequate compensation for the death in custody of her son;
- urging the Government of West Bengal to ensure that trial proceedings against the officers continue promptly and in accordance with international standards for fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

Buddhadev Bhattacharjee
Chief Minister of West Bengal
Office of the Chief Minister
Writers Building
Kolkatta
West Bengal
INDIA

Telegrams: Chief Minister, West Bengal, India

Fax: + 91 33 225 5480

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

COPIES TO:

D. C. Vajpai
Director General of Police
Office of the DGP
Police Headquarters
Kolkatta
West Bengal
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 30 December 2000.