

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Media Advisory

14 December 2013

AI Index: ASA 20/060/2013

Delhi gang rape anniversary: Spokespeople available on women's rights in India

On 16 December, India will mark the first anniversary of the gang rape and murder of a young woman in Delhi.

Divya Iyer, Senior Researcher with Amnesty International India, is available for interviews from Bangalore over the weekend and on Monday about women's human rights issues in India.

"Last year's horrific gang rape should have shocked Indian authorities into action to tackle endemic violence against women more effectively. But while we have seen some positive developments over the last year, they have been far from enough," said Divya Iyer.

"Crimes against women are still under-reported, and when they are reported, they are often not investigated or prosecuted effectively. Rape within marriage is still not considered a crime under law if the wife is over 15."

"We need immediate legal reform, but also genuine commitment to ensure that the justice system responds adequately to all reports of sexual violence, not just those that get media attention. Attitudes that legitimize violence against women also need to change."

Possible talking points:

- What has happened for women's human rights over the past year?
- Violence against women
- Lack of legal protection for women
- The need to improve police attitudes and procedures
- The death penalty and violence against women

To arrange an interview, please contact:

Olof Blomqvist, Asia Pacific Press Officer: +44 (0) 777 847 2126 or olof.blomqvist@amnesty.org.