
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 79/93

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 13 JULY 1993

AI INDEX: NWS 11/79/93
DISTR: SC/PO
NO OF WORDS: 481

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: External - India

PLEASE NOTE Mike McClintock, IS staff member, will be speaking at a meeting of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) in Barcelona this week. He has compiled a 33-page document called: First steps: AI's work on behalf of lesbians and gay men, covering AI work on homosexual issues/cases so far, which he will be issuing at the meeting. This will be sent out in a Weekly Mailing in the future, but we do have copies in the IS Press Office if you get urgent requests.

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Annual Report - 0600 hrs gmt, 8 July - SEE WEEKLY UPDATE 76/93

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Indonesia (Aceh) - 28 July - SEE WEEKLY UPDATE 76/93

News release faxed/e-mailed/telexed to sections on 12 July.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

India - enclosed

IS Press Office is sending the enclosed item to international agencies and Indian media for immediate release.

AI INDEX: ASA 20/WU 06/93

13 JULY 1993

INDIA: GOVERNMENT FAILS TO ACCEPT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BOMBAY

Amnesty International greatly regrets that the Indian government has not been able to agree to an Amnesty International visit to Bombay which the organization had proposed take place from 18 - 24 July 1993.

Amnesty International had made the proposal after Home Minister SB Chavan's specific assurances to the press on 22 April that Amnesty International "can go to Bombay and speak to whoever they wish, so long as they also meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra". India had earlier turned down Amnesty International's request to visit Bombay in April.

Amnesty International had made its latest request in a 16 June letter to Mr Sharad Pawar, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The organization proposed that its delegation should visit Bombay to discuss matters relating to police behaviour and training in view of allegations that some policemen had failed to act impartially during the disturbances in the city in December 1992 and January this year. The delegation would have comprised of Mr Rod Morgan, the Dean of the Faculty of Law of Bristol University, and a Dutch lawyer from Amnesty International's International Secretariat.

Amnesty International had also asked to discuss more recent allegations of ill-treatment of Muslims in detention as well as the action the government has taken in respect of two dozen people reported to have died in police custody in the state between 1985 and 1993. Amnesty international had requested to meet the Chief Minister, the Bombay Police Commissioner, as well members of civil liberties organisations and others with first hand information.

The Indian High Commission in London stressed that the Indian Government was not opposed to such a visit, but that the dates which Amnesty International had requested could not be accommodated. Amnesty International will now propose that its visit to Bombay take place in the autumn.

ENDS/