
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 136/94

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 27 JUNE 1994 NO OF WORDS:555

AI INDEX: NWS 11/136/94
DISTR: SC/PO

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - PAKISTAN

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

United Kingdom - 14 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

Pakistan - 27 July - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94

Myanmar - 20 July - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASE SEE NEWS SERVICE 99/94

India - 16 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

**** Kosovo - 20 September **** - Document and news release to accompany section level action on ill-treatment of Albanians. Document coming in weekly mailing of 22 August.

**** Algeria - first week of October **** - Will let you know the finalised date asap. Document and news release on killings by security forces to accompany section level action.

**** France - second week of October **** - Will let you know the finalised date asap. More details to follow.

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Lusophone Summit - 27 June - PLEASE NOTE - This summit has been postponed. Hold on to the news service item, we will let you know when the summit is rescheduled. SEE NEWS SERVICE 124/94 for item

Equatorial Guinea - 30 June - SEE NEWS SERVICE 135.

North and South Korea - 21 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 135

**** Brazil - 14 September**** - Document and news service item to go with section level action. Release date is about three weeks before first round of presidential elections in October. Document focuses on police ill-treatment and will go in weekly mailing of 10 August.

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 0600 hrs GMT 7 July 1994 - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

News Service 136/94

**AI INDEX: ASA 33/WU 02/94
27 JUNE 1994**

PAKISTAN: 91 YEAR-OLD SINDHI NATIONALIST LEADER G.M. SYED STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST WITHOUT TRIAL AFTER ALMOST 30 MONTHS

For the last two and a half years, the 91 year-old leader of Pakistan's Sindhi nationalist movement has been under house arrest on charges of sedition.

Since his arrest, the home of G.M. Syed, the founder and leader of the Jeay Sindh Movement, has been declared a sub-jail and is continually surrounded by police guards, with only his most immediate family members allowed access.

Although he is in very poor health -- suffering from a kidney complaint, high blood pressure and a chest infection -- it has reportedly been difficult for him to obtain permission from the authorities to get medical treatment. Amnesty International is gravely concerned about his continued house arrest.

Pakistani police arrested Syed on 19 January 1992, two days after he gave a speech calling for "Sindhudesh", a land for the Sindhis, and the right to self-determination for Sindhis. He has been arrested on several previous occasions by successive governments of Pakistan.

Although Syed was charged along with eight other Sindhi politicians, none of the others have been arrested in connection with this charge -- and Amnesty International believes the authorities are deliberately dragging their heels on bringing him to trial.

The only time G.M. Syed was taken to court -- almost a year after his arrest -- the judge was absent and at a subsequent hearing the public prosecutor didn't show up. On top of this, Syed has apparently only been allowed to see his lawyer once.

"We are writing to the government saying that they should release him now and drop all the charges against him," Amnesty International said.

"It's clear that his house has been turned into a jail just because his views are unpopular with the government and for that reason we're adopting him as a prisoner of conscience."

ENDS