
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 138/93

TO: PRESS OFFICERS
FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE
DATE: 26 OCTOBER 1993

AI INDEX: NWS 11/138/93
DISTR: SC/PO
NO OF WORDS: 605

NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - INDIA, ALGERIA

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

USA - 24 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 132

Pakistan - 7 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137

India - 15 December - SEE NEWS SERVICE 137

****Iran - 17 November****

News release to go with Summary of Concerns report, embargoed for 17 November.

Venezuela - 10 November - SEE NEWS SERVICE 121

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Afghanistan - 26 October - SEE NEWS SERVICE 124/131/132

****Algeria - 28 October**** - SEE NEWS SERVICE 127

Please note: enclosed are two paragraphs to replace the final paragraph in the Algeria item sent in News Service 127, embargoed for 28 October. Please do not worry if you have already sent the original item out to media - but these paras should be used when dealing with interviews as they cover new developments.

****Papua New Guinea - 19 November****

News service item to accompany Summary of Concerns report, embargoed for 19 November, will be sent to targeted international media.

****Human Rights Day Speech - 9 December****

Human Rights Day is on 10 December. On 9 December, Pierre Sané will be making a keynote speech rounding up the human rights year at the London School of Economics (as prestigious college in London) and international media will be invited. The speech and further details will be sent to you nearer the time.

FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

1994

Tunisia - 12 January

South Africa - 19 January

Colombia - 16 March - SEE NEWS SERVICE 123 + UAs AMR 23/56-57/93

**AI INDEX: ASA 20/WU 09/93
22 OCTOBER 1993**

INDIA: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONCERNED BY REPORTS OF 16 PEOPLE KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES

Amnesty International today faxed a letter to General K V Krishna Rao, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, expressing concern at reports that 16 people have been killed by Indian security forces in Fatha Kadal, Srinagar, and Bijbehara, in Anantnag. The killings apparently occurred during demonstrations against the siege of the Hazratbal shrine.

Amnesty International has, at this stage, no further details about the circumstances in which these killings occurred. It reiterates its appeal to the government to use the utmost restraint and to take all possible measures to protect the right to life of those wishing to express their views about the siege, and only to use force as a last resort and when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

Amnesty International also urges an independent and impartial inquiry into the circumstances in which the 16 were killed and requests the government to release Syed Ali Shah Geelani if he was indeed, as reports suggest, arrested merely for peacefully leading a protest demonstration.

ENDS/

EXTERNAL

**ADDITION TO AI INDEX: MDE 28/WU 05/93
EMBARGOED FOR 28 OCTOBER 1993**

Amnesty International has repeatedly condemned the killing of civilians by armed Islamist opposition groups, and is gravely concerned at the recent increase in killings and kidnappings of Algerian and foreign civilians. Among those recently killed are Mustapha Abada, former head of Algerian television and adviser to Paris Mosque, killed on 14 October, and Ismail Yesfah, editor in-chief of a daily news program on Algerian television, who was killed on 18 October outside his home in Algiers. He was the seventh journalist killed in the last five months.

Recently, foreigners appear to be increasingly targeted: two French surveyors kidnapped apparently by armed Islamic militants in Tlelat on 21 September were found dead the following day, and a Peruvian, a Colombian and a Filipino were kidnapped on 19 October and found dead three days later. Three officials at the French consulate were kidnapped on 24 October.

While condemning these grave abuses, Amnesty International said they cannot in any way excuse violations by the Algerian government. "No level of opposition violence, no matter how horrifying, can be used to justify torture, summary executions and unfair trials," said Amnesty International.

ENDS/