

URGENT ACTION

TEENAGER AT RISK OF REPEAT DETENTION

Nineteen year old Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was taken into custody by police immediately after being released from administrative detention on 10 June, and is at risk of a repeat administrative detention order.

Zaffar Shafi Hakeem had been arrested on 28 January by police in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, India. He was held in administrative detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) from 29 January till 10 June.

In early June, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir found the detention unlawful and ordered his release. On 10 June, instead of being released to his father who was waiting outside the Kathua Jail, Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was taken from the prison by a team of a specialist counter-insurgency police.

The police officials did not give his father any information on the alleged offences for which Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was being held again, nor has he been produced before a magistrate. His detention may therefore be without legal basis. The police officials told the father that Zaffar Shafi Hakeem would be taken to the Joint Interrogation Centre at Jammu for a few days before being taken to Srinagar where he may be released after a few days. However it is likely that a repeat administrative detention order will be passed to further hold Zaffar Shafi Hakeem under the PSA.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English or your own language:

- Demanding that Zaffar Shafi Hakeem be released immediately, unless he is charged with a recognizably criminal offence and remanded in custody by a court;
- Demanding that the State authorities not order the repeat administrative detention of Zaffar Shafi Hakeem.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 JUNE 2011 TO:

Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir

Omar Abdullah
Civil Secretariat
Civil Secretariat, Srinagar,
Jammu and Kashmir, India
Fax +91 194 245 2224
Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

And copies to:

Minister of Home Affairs
P Chidambaram
North Block, Central Secretariat
New Delhi – 110 001
Fax: + 91 11 23094221
Email: hm@nic.in

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 136/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/017/2011/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was previously detained under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, a law that allows the state authorities to detain persons without charge for up to two years without any judicial review of the allegations against them. Amnesty International's recent report 'A lawless law' (ASA 20/001/2011) documented the common practice of repeat detentions ordered by the state authorities.

According to the police, 258 people were detained without trial under the provisions of the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir from March 2010 and May 2011.

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