

URGENT ACTION

TEENAGER RELEASED FROM DETENTION

Nineteen-year-old Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was released from police custody on the evening of 18 June, after local media highlighted Amnesty International's urgent action appeal.

Zaffar Shafi Hakeem was released from police custody in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir in the evening of 18 June and is now back at home with his family. He had been taken into custody by police immediately after being released from administrative detention on 10 June, and was 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 and held in administrative detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) from 29 January until 10 June. The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir found the detention unlawful, but 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.

Journalists in Kashmir had highlighted the case by publicizing Amnesty International's urgent action appeal update and seeking a response from the State authorities.

Many thanks to those who sent appeals. No further action is required from the UA network.

This is the second update of UA 136/11. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/029/2011/en



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Zaffar Shafi Hakeem had been 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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