

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA**

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**June 29, 2014**

**Index: ASA 20/028/2014**

#### **Amnesty International India to launch a new report on exploitation of Kerala Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia**

On July 4, 2014, Amnesty International India will launch a new report, *Exploited Dreams: Dispatches from Indian migrant workers in Saudi Arabia*, on human rights abuse faced by Indian Migrant Workers from Kerala, in Saudi Arabia.

- Every day, close to 1000 Indian low wage migrant workers are provided with emigration clearances to travel to Saudi Arabia.
- They are recruited to work in cafeterias, supermarkets, construction sites, and guest houses; they sweep streets, cook in restaurants, and serve in households as domestic workers.
- Together, they send close to 500 billion INR (approximately 8.2 billion USD) back to India every year.
- However, Indian migrant workers often face serious exploitation and deception during the migration process, leading to serious human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia which at their worst include forced labour.

Drawing on interviews with migrant workers, government representatives and recruiting agents, this report examines the systemic factors in the pre-departure phase of the migration process that contribute to the exploitation and deception of migrant workers by individual brokers and recruiting agents in the state of Kerala, India.

It documents the human rights abuses migrant workers encountered during their employment and residence in Saudi Arabia, and analyses the role played by the Indian government in regulating recruiting agents and ensuring access to remedy for migrant workers. It provides recommendations to the governments of India and Saudi Arabia on how to prevent human rights abuses and protect migrant workers.

#### **MORE INFORMATION**

Advance copies of the report are available. The report will be launched at a press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on July 4, featuring Amnesty International India experts and Migrant workers.

For advance copies or to RSVP to the press conference, please contact:

Himanshi Matta, Media Officer, [himanshi.matta@amnesty.org.in](mailto:himanshi.matta@amnesty.org.in) , +91 88601 82310,  
Twitter: @himanshimatta

Durga Nandini, Senior Media Officer, [durga.nandini@amnesty.org.in](mailto:durga.nandini@amnesty.org.in) , +91 97119 94035,  
Twitter: @nandinidurga