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NEWS FLASH
INDIA: Kashmir killings

Amnesty International has today expressed concern at the actions taken by the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in firing on apparently unarmed demonstrators in Anantnag today. Their actions led to the death of seven protestors and the serious injury of at least six others.

The protesters were calling for the return of the bodies of five alleged militants who had earlier been killed by security forces. Protesters claimed they had been arrested before being killed in custody while security forces claim they were killed in an encounter. Protesters were also calling for the disclosure of the whereabouts of 12 other youths who have reportedly been arrested in recent days as part of investigations into the deaths of 35 Sikhs in the nearby village of Chatti Singhpura on 20 March.

Amnesty International is reiterating call to the Indian authorities to carry out a full, independent and transparent inquiry into the deaths of the 35 Sikhs on 20 March. It is further calling for independent inquiries into allegations of human rights violations by security forces in the wake of the March 20 killings, including today's shooting.

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**For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London,
UK, on 44 171 413 5566 or visit our website at <http://www.amnesty.org>**