

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/015/2001

20 February 2001

Further information on UA 364/00 (ASA 20/58/00, 27 November 2000) and follow-up (ASA 20/01/2001, 19 February 2001) - Fear for Safety

INDIA Azam Ali

The Andhra Pradesh government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the killing of human rights defender Azam Ali, who was working with the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC). The Home Minister announced the inquiry in a statement to the Legislative Assembly, in which he condemned the killing.

Amnesty International welcomes the inquiry, but remains concerned that the state government has not provided vital information about the scope of the inquiry, how long it will last and who will be in charge.

If the state authorities really intend to prevent further human rights violations and ensure the safety of human rights defenders in Andhra Pradesh, Amnesty International believes that any inquiry should also investigate the wider issue of alleged police connivance with the killers of both T. Purushottam and Azam Ali. There are reports that police failed to investigate when the people who claimed responsibility for the death of T. Purushottam threatened to attack human rights defenders working with the APCLC, and that police have refused to conduct a judicial inquiry into the killing.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- asking the government of Andhra Pradesh for details of the remit of the inquiry, the date for completion and name of the Judicial Officer who will head the inquiry;
- asking them to ensure that the inquiry looks into allegations that the killers had links to state security forces;
- urging the government of Andhra Pradesh to make all necessary information available to the inquiry so that they can conduct an impartial and independent investigation;
- calling on the state authorities to provide protection for any witnesses who give evidence before the inquiry.

APPEALS TO:

Mr Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
Office of the Chief Minister
Secretariat Building
Hyderabad 500 022
Andhra Pradesh
India

Fax: + 91 40 345 7824 (Please note it can be difficult to get through to this number)

Email: cmap@ap.nic.in

Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

C. Rangarajan
Governor, Andhra Pradesh
Rajya Bhavan
Hyderabad

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Andhra Pradesh
India
Fax: + 91 40 331 1260

COPIES TO:

Mr Lal Krishna Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 3 April 2001.