

**TO: PRESS OFFICERS**

**FROM: IS PRESS OFFICE**

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Following is an addition to the news release on Punjab, written as a result of the Indian government's response to the Punjab report. Press officers may issue this or use it in response to media inquiries.

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The following is an addition to Amnesty International's news release

**India: @Amnesty International calls for end to "Rampant" abuses by security forces in Punjab, embargoed for 0001 hrs gmt Friday 10 May 1991.**

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**ADDITION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S INDIA NEWS RELEASE**

Amnesty International today welcomed the decision by the Indian Government to send a 31-page response to its report. The response is the first of its kind to Amnesty International by any Indian administration. It was conveyed to the organization today by the Indian High Commissioner in London, whom Amnesty International met to discuss its human rights concerns.

"We welcome the fact of the response as a positive sign that the government is prepared to respond to international concern about human rights violations in India," Amnesty International said.

In its response, the government claims that Amnesty International's report is biased and exaggerated. It says there are between 1,000 and 3,000 arrests made yearly under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act and disputes Amnesty International's figure of over 10,000 detainees in the state.

In discussing the allegations of human rights violations in the report, the government emphasizes the context of armed violence by opposition groups.

It says that the special anti-terrorist laws which the report criticizes "are designed specifically to meet the extraordinary situation created in Punjab".

The response also includes additional information on 24 of the 42 cases of alleged torture, "disappearance" or extrajudicial execution described in the report and gives the authorities' version of events in these cases.

"The government's response does not in any way invalidate our report on human rights violations in Punjab," Amnesty International said. "Nevertheless, we welcome the opportunity to assess new information supplied by the government in a number of cases cited in the report and now hope to engage in a serious dialogue with the authorities."