

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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*This is a limited action - please organise up to 15 appeals per section*

**UA 122/92 Illegal Detention/Fear of Ill-treatment**

**14 April 1992**

**INDIA: Colonel Pratap Singh**

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Amnesty International is concerned at reports that Colonel Pratap Singh, aged 64, of the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), was arrested on 3 April 1992 at 12.15pm at his house in Chandigarh. His arrest was reportedly made in connection with the formation of a new political party, the Khalsa Raj, which advocates the creation of an independent Sikh state in Punjab "through democratic, peaceful and non-violent means". He was produced in court on 4 April and remanded to police custody. He is being held in Bural jail, Chandigarh. There are reports that he may have been tortured.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of "disappearances" and unacknowledged detention of people arrested in Punjab on suspicion of being members or sympathizers of one of the Sikh opposition groups advocating a separate Sikh state, "Khalistan". In some cases the detainees are eventually found to have died in custody, while others are found to have been deliberately killed in custody although official reports say they died in "encounters" with the police. Even though legal safeguards against unacknowledged detention exist in India's ordinary criminal law and procedural code, they are often simply not adhered to and prisoners are held in illegal detention for weeks and sometimes months under special legislation granting the security forces arbitrary powers to arrest and detain people without ordinary legal safeguards.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/airmail letters:**

- expressing concern about the reports that Colonel Pratap Singh was reportedly arrested on 3 April 1992 by Punjab police for unknown reasons;
- expressing concern at reports that Colonel Pratap Singh may have been tortured and seeking assurances that he is being humanely treated and is granted full legal safeguards while in custody;
- urging that he be immediately released if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

**APPEALS TO**

- 1) Beant Singh  
Chief Minister of Punjab

Office of the Chief Minister  
Chandigarh  
Punjab  
INDIA

**Telegrams: Punjab State Governor, Chandigarh, Punjab, India**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Minister**

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2) Mr K. P. S. Gill  
Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Chandigarh  
Punjab  
INDIA

**Telegrams: Director General Police, Chandigarh, Punjab, India**

**Salutation: Dear Director General**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Punjab Human Rights Organisation (Regd.)  
Head Office  
H. No. 22, Sector 2  
Chandigarh (U.T.)  
Punjab  
INDIA

and to diplomatic representatives of India in your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 May 1992.