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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL DELEGATION VISITS INDIA

As part of Amnesty International's ongoing work on the human rights situation in India, the human rights organization has sent a four-person delegation to the country between 4 July and 10 August 1996. The organization will be in India to build contacts with national, regional and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to see the situation on the ground and to research patterns of human rights violations.

This is the first research visit by an Amnesty International delegation to India since 1994. Prior to that visit, Amnesty International had not been able to visit India to do research for 14 years.

"We very much welcome this opportunity to consolidate our work on India and look forward to regular visits by Amnesty International to areas throughout the country," said Pierre Sané, Secretary General of Amnesty International. "India has a reputation as an open society. It is important that this openness is extended to the realm of human rights."

"I would personally like to visit the country myself early next year to meet with the government and discuss the important role India can play in protecting human rights both within the region and globally."

Amnesty International routinely visits many countries around the world. In 1995 the organization visited 60 countries, including countries throughout South Asia, for talks with governments, research and trial observations.

The Amnesty International delegation includes Dr Sangeeta Ahuja and Dr Angelika Pathak, researchers at Amnesty International's International Secretariat, Professor Stephanie Farrior, a lecturer in international human rights law and a volunteer in Amnesty International's USA Section and Emma Blower of the South Asia Research and Campaign Team at the International Secretariat.

The delegates are to visit Delhi, Rajasthan and Karnataka, to meet with NGOs, including civil liberties groups, and with members of institutions including the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Women.

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