

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 20/34/96

9 July 1996

Further information (4) on EXTRA 43/96 (ASA 20/12/96, 21 March 1996) and follow-ups (ASA 20/18/96, 7 May 1996, ASA 20/23/96, 22 May 1996 and ASA 20/30/96, 20 June 1996) - Fear of ill-treatment / arbitrary arrest / medical Concern

INDIA 791 Bhutanese people from refugee camps in eastern Nepal

Amnesty International has learned that all 791 Bhutanese people detained in four prisons in West Bengal for participating in a series of marches organized since early 1996, were unconditionally released on 5 July 1996.

Their release followed a decision by the West Bengal authorities to withdraw all charges against them. This decision was apparently taken after the High Court in Calcutta on 4 July ordered the public prosecutor to inform the court by 15 July of the grounds for the continued detention of the Bhutanese people.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send letters/faxes in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the release of the 791 Bhutanese marchers.

LETTERS TO:

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and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.