

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 20/49/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 297/92**

**Illegal Detention/"Disappearance"**

**23 September 1992**

**INDIA:**

**Param Satinderjit Singh, student**

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Amnesty International is concerned about the safety of Param Satinderjit Singh who has reportedly "disappeared" since his arrest by Amritsar police on 18 May 1992.

Param Satinderjit Singh, a second year student of Technology of Gurnakdev University, was reportedly arrested by Amritsar Police on 18 May 1992 and handed over to the Gurdaspur police. However, it has been reported that there is no record of his arrest or the charges against him. His whereabouts remain unknown although reports suggest that he may be detained in Amritsar or Majitha district. His father has reportedly been on hungerstrike for the last 15 days outside the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Amritsar, urging the police to disclose where his son is being held.

Amnesty International wrote to the Chief Minister of Punjab on 17 June 1992 requesting information about Parma Satinderjit Singh's whereabouts and seeking assurances for his physical safety while held in custody, but to date the organization has received no reply.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International regularly receives reports of "disappearance" 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 believed to have been deliberately killed in custody although official reports say they died in "encounters" with the police, or that they "escaped". 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 unacknowledged detention for weeks and sometimes months.

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams and airmail letters in English:**

- expressing concern about Param Satinderjit Singh's "disappearance" since his arrest by Amritsar police on 18 May 1992 and urging that his whereabouts be made known to his relatives and they be granted immediate access to him;
- expressing concern about his safety and about reports that he is being illegally held in an unknown place of detention;
- urging that he be brought before a magistrate immediately, as required by

Section 57 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and granted immediate access to lawyers;

- urging that he be released immediately if he is not to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence and brought to trial under ordinary procedures of criminal law;

- seeking assurances that he will be humanely treated while in custody.

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**APPEALS TO:**

1) Chief Minister of Punjab  
Mr Beant Singh  
Chief Minister of Punjab  
Office of the Chief Minister  
Chandigarh  
India  
**Telegrams: Punjab Chief Minister,  
Chandigarh, Punjab,  
India**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Minister**

3) Senior Superintendent of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Amritsar 4  
Punjab  
India  
**Telegrams: Senior Superintendent  
Police, Amritsar,  
Punjab, India**

**Salutation: Dear Senior  
Superintendent**

2) Director General of Police  
Mr K P S Gill  
Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Chandigarh  
Punjab  
India  
**Telegrams: Director General Police,  
Chandigarh, Punjab,  
India**

**Salutation: Dear Director**

4) Senior Superintendent of Police  
Majitha District Police Station  
Punjab  
India  
**Telegrams: Senior Superintendent  
Police, Majitha,  
Punjab, India**

**Salutation: Dear Senior  
Superintendent**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 4 November 1992.