

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 439/91**

**Possible Extrajudicial Execution**

**13 December 1991**

**INDIA: Narra Prabhakar Reddy, lawyer and civil liberties activist**

Narra Prabhakar Reddy, a 35 year-old lawyer known to have provided legal aid and assistance to people accused of being "Naxalite" left wing activists, was shot dead in Warangal by unidentified men on 7 December. He was shot at 7.30 am in the bedroom of his house reportedly by four men arriving on scooters without number plates. Mr Reddy was the District Unit Convener of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee and the secretary of the District Bar Association, which has called for a judicial inquiry into his death.

Although officials say Mr Reddy was killed by unidentified gunmen, civil liberties activists suggest police involvement in his death. They report that his death might be connected with the killing in preceding days of two policemen by members of the People's War Group (PWG) faction of the Naxalites and the killing of a local politician, Mr Hayagrivachary, a former member of the legislative assembly of the Congress (I) party on 5 December, also by the Naxalites.

Although Mr Reddy's killing was immediately reported to the local police station very close to his house, the police did not arrive until two hours later when they removed the body. The District Bar Association reported that Mr Reddy had previously been threatened by the police apparently in connection with his legal work for political activists and that they had asked the District Magistrate for the area to intervene to stop the police from harassing Mr Reddy. Although a post-mortem was conducted, no inquest was reportedly held although such an inquest is mandatory under the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure for all killings which are accidental or the result of unnatural causes. To date no arrests are known to have been made.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Maoist revolutionaries known as Naxalites have engaged in violent opposition, particularly in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Andhra Pradesh, the PWG has been involved in kidnapping and armed attacks on civilian targets as well as on state officials and police. In an effort to suppress these protest violent activities, the police have carried out widespread arrests of those involved or suspected of involvement in these activities. Torture has frequently been reported.

Human rights activists have sometimes been targets of police repression. Two senior activists of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee (APCLC), Dr. Ramanadhram and Japa Laxma Reddy, were reportedly killed by the police on 3 September 1985 and 7 November 1986 respectively. Dr. Ramanathan was chased out of his clinic in Warangal and shot in the back at point blank range by police. He had actively opposed the killing of political activists and advocated the repeal of the Disturbed Areas Act

in force at the time, which granted police wide powers to shoot to kill as well as immunity from prosecution. The police subsequently alleged that he was a Naxalite belonging to the PWG, a charge denied by his family. Civil Liberties activists were concerned at the time that his death was not properly investigated and that no one was brought to justice for killing him.

Page 2 of UA 439/91

**RECOMMENDED Action: Telegrams/telexes and airmail letters;**

- expressing concern at the allegations that the police may have been involved in the killing of Mr Reddy.
- urging that an impartial judicial inquiry be held into the death of Mr Reddy.
- urging that those responsible for his death be brought to justice.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Mr N. Janardhana Reddy  
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh  
Secretariat  
Hyderabad 500 001  
Andhra Pradesh  
India

**Salutation: Dear Chief Minister**

**Telegrams: Chief Minister Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, India**  
**Telexes: 4256325 APCS IN**

2) R. Prabhakar Rao  
Director General of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh  
India

**Salutation: Dear Director General**

**Telegrams: Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police, Hyderabad, India**

3) Superintendent of Police  
Police Headquarters  
Warangal  
Andhra Pradesh  
India

**Salutation: Dear Superintendent**

**Telegrams: Andhra Pradesh Superintendent of Police, Warangal, India**

**COPIES TO:**

Dr M. V. Mysoora Reddy  
Minister for Home  
Secretariat  
Hyderabad 500 001  
India

Organization:  
K G Kannabiran  
APCLC  
10-3-29/2, Plot No 128  
East Maredapally  
Opposite Domestic Science College  
Secunderabad 500 026

Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties

Andhra Pradesh, India

Krishna Kant  
Governor of Andhra Pradesh  
Raj Bhavan  
Hyderabad  
Andhra Pradesh  
India

Mr Shankarrao Chavan  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
North Block  
New Delhi 110 001  
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 24 January 1992.