

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 33/02/98

26 January 1998

**Further information on UA 22/98 (ASA 33/01/98, 22 January 1998) - Fear of torture
/ Possible prisoner of conscience**

PAKISTANShaukat Ali Kashmiri

A writ petition was filed by the United Kashmir People's National Party in the High Court of Azad Kashmir on 22 January 1998. The petitioners held Pakistan military intelligence, the Interservices Intelligence (ISI), the civilian intelligence agency, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Superintendent of Police, district Poonch in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in whose jurisdiction the incident occurred, responsible for the abduction and unlawful detention of Shaukat Ali Kashmiri. No date has been fixed for the hearing of the petition.

No further information has been obtained about the whereabouts of the prisoner. Amnesty International has meanwhile been told that the car in which Shaukat Ali Kashmiri was taken away blindfolded was identified by local people as belonging to the local headquarters of the ISI in Rawlakot, and that the car proceeded to Pakistan.

[Note: Azad Jammu and Kashmir, often merely called Azad Kashmir, is a territory that came under Pakistani administration in 1948 by a UN-brokered agreement between India and Pakistan; Pakistan, denying the legitimacy of the accession of Kashmir to India has emphasized that Azad [free] Jammu and Kashmir is a provisional and autonomous entity under temporary Pakistani control pending a plebiscite to determine the future of Kashmir. Azad Jammu and Kashmir has its own government headed by a prime minister and its separate judicial system with its own High Court and Supreme Court. Under the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the Government of Pakistan is entrusted with several functions, including the defence, security and external relations of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council, which combines important executive and legislative functions, is headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Constitution of Azad Kashmir restricts the right to freedom of association to those who subscribe to the "ideology of the State's accession to Pakistan".]

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please continue sending appeals as specified in UA 22/98

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 9 March 1998