

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Extrajudicial Executions

15 March 1991

INDIA

Ghulam Nabi
Abdul Hamid
Ghulam Nabi Teli

On 11 March 1991, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel reportedly opened fire on shops in Srinagar, Kashmir, killing Ghulam Nabi, Abdul Hamid and Ghulam Nabi Teli, and injuring Ghulam Nabi Teli's 10-year-old son, Dina. This version of events was confirmed by police officials. It is not clear whether Ghulam Nabi Teli's son died as a result of his injuries: the police stated that he was injured, but witnesses claimed that the child died soon after the attack. Reports allege that members of the CRPF carried out these killings in retaliation for an earlier ambush by militants on a CRPF convoy of paramilitary jeeps in the area in which Jeevan Singh, a CRPF officer, was killed.

Amnesty International is concerned that the 11 March killings by the CRPF in Srinagar seem to have been the result of a deliberate retaliatory attack on innocent, unarmed civilians. It is not known whether an inquiry has been ordered into the incident or whether members of the CRPF patrol potentially implicated in the incident have been removed from positions of authority over Srinagar civilians.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since early 1990 there has been an increasingly violent campaign for independence in Kashmir. Armed separatists have kidnapped and killed officials, members of the paramilitary forces and civilians in their campaign. Amnesty International has repeatedly expressed concern to the Indian government about reports of deliberate killings of unarmed civilians by members of the security forces, about widespread allegations of torture and rape by members of the security forces and about arbitrary arrests of suspected separatists or their relatives. In September 1990, the government announced that a screening committee would be set up to examine complaints of excesses by the security forces. Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Girish Saxena, has ordered several investigations of such abuses, in one case leading to charges of murder being brought against the Director of the Border Security Force (BSF). But such investigations have usually been conducted by police or other officials rather than by an independent and impartial body. Amnesty International does not know of any cases in which officials allegedly responsible for such human rights violations have been brought to justice and convicted.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at reports that on 11 March, in retaliation for the killing of one of their officers, members of the Central Reserve Police Force deliberately killed three unarmed civilians and wounded a 10-year-old boy;
- requesting further details about the state of health of the boy, Dina;
- urging that there be a prompt and impartial inquiry into the incident, that those selected to carry out the inquiry be selected for their impartiality, that the methods and results of the inquiry be quickly made public and that any people found responsible for the killings be brought to justice;
- urging that immediate steps are taken to ensure that those potentially implicated are removed from positions of control or power over complainants, witnesses and their relatives, as well as those conducting the investigation;
- urging that the families of the victims be granted adequate compensation.

APPEALS TO

His Excellency
Mr Girish Saxena
Governor of Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar
Jammu and Kashmir, India

Telegrams: Governor Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, India

His Excellency
Prime Minister Chandrashekhar
Office of the Prime Minister
South Block, Gate No 6
New Delhi 110 011, India

Telegrams: Prime Minister Chandrashekhar, New Delhi, India

COPIES TO:

Mr Subodh Kant Sahay
Minister of State for Home Affairs
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 26 April 1991.