

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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12 August 1992

Further information on UA 75/92 (ASA 20/24/92, 5 March 1992) - Fear of Torture

**INDIA: Harpal Singh Cheema
Paramjit Singh Sidhu
and one other**

Amnesty International has recently learned that Harpal Singh Cheema has been released on bail.

Harpal Singh Cheema, Paramjit Singh Sidhu and one other man were reportedly arrested on arrival at Bombay airport on 7 February 1992 and unofficially detained. Paramjit Singh Sidhu and the other man were released shortly afterwards but Harpal Singh Cheema remained in unacknowledged detention. Amnesty International has now learned that on the same day as it issued UA 75/92 on 5 March 1992, a *habeus corpus* petition was brought in the Supreme Court, after which Bombay police and the Intelligence bureau admitted that they had arrested two men but denied arresting Harpal Singh.

The Supreme Court ordered Harpal Singh be produced before the court on 12 March and the Ludhiana police immediately said he had been arrested that same day in Punjab on suspicion of carrying explosives. He was then produced before a magistrate who ordered his judicial remand in custody. This led the Supreme Court to dismiss the High Court petition, while saying that the case could be pursued in the local courts in Punjab. Since then, Harpal Singh Cheema has been released on bail, although Amnesty International does not yet know the actual date of his release. Reports suggest that he may have been tortured during interrogation and that he is now recovering from his injuries.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters

- welcoming the release of Harpal Singh Cheema, but expressing concern that according to Amnesty International's information he was illegally detained for about one month since his arrest on 7 February 1992 and may have been tortured during that time;

- urging the authorities to promptly investigate reports that he was illegally detained for about one month after his reported arrest on 7 February, and if so, that those found to be responsible be brought immediately to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mr S.B Chavan
Minister of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 100 001

India

Telegrams: Home Affairs Minister Chavan, New Delhi, India

Telexes: 3161879 FRGN IN or 3161880 FRGN IN (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

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2) Director General Intelligence Bureau

North Block

Central Secretariat

New Delhi 100 001

India

Telegrams: Director General Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi, India

Salutation: Dear Sir

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

V.K Saraf

Director General of Police

Police Headquarters

Bombay

Maharashtra

India

and 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 23 September 1992.