

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 242/92 (ASA 20/41/92, 28 July 1992) - Death Penalty

INDIA: Sukhdev Singh alias Sukha
Harjinder Singh alias Jinda

Sukhdev Singh and Harjinder Singh were executed by hanging at 4am (indian time), 2330 (GMT) on 9 October 1992 at Pune jail Maharashtra. The Supreme Court rejected a last minute appeal challenging their death sentences on 8 October 1992. They had been sentenced to death for murdering General A. Vaidya in August 1986 and pleaded guilty.

Although the two men had been acquitted of charges brought against them under the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA) and were sentenced to death for murder under the provisions of the Indian Penal Code, they were nevertheless tried by a designated court established under TADA and the special procedures initiated under that special law - permitting trial, in jail, in camera, with only one appeal, to the Supreme Court of India - reportedly continued to be applied in their case.

While Amnesty International recognizes the right of governments to bring to justice those responsible for the crimes for which the men were convicted, it opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception. The death penalty is the ultimate violation of the right to life as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. The organization deeply regrets that the two men have been executed and calls on the President to commute any outstanding or future death sentences.

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

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Sukhdev Singh and Harjinder Singh and urging the President to commute any outstanding or future death sentences;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- expressing concern that, although convicted of murder under the ordinary provisions of law, the two men were executed after a trial held in camera, in jail, by a designated court established under the special procedures of

the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act, reducing appeal to the Supreme Court only.

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APPEALS TO:

1. President

Mr Shankar Dayal Sharma
Office of the President
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004

Telegrams: President Dayal Sharma New Delhi, India

Telexes: 31 66427 RBND IN

Faxes: +11 301 72 90

Salutation: Dear President

2. Governor of Maharashtra

C. Subramanian
Governor of Maharashtra
Office of the Governor
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Bombay 400 006
India

Telegrams: Governor of Maharashtra, Raj Bhavan, Bombay, India

Telephone: +22 3632 660

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr S.B. Chavan
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry for Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi
India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.