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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 134/94

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - EQUATORIAL GUINEA, INDIA (FOR RESPONSE)

NEWS INITIATIVES - INTERNAL

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

United Kingdom - 14 July - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

Pakistan - 27 July - PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE. SEE NEWS SERVICE 81/94

Myanmar - 20 July - PLEASE NOTE THIS IS AN INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASE SEE NEWS SERVICE 99/94

India - 16 August - SEE NEWS SERVICE 129/94

## TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

Lusophone Summit - 27 June - SEE NEWS SERVICE 124/94 for item

\*\*Equatorial Guinea - 30 June\*\* - Embargoed item enclosed. Will be sent to limited African media.

\*\*North and South Korea - 21 July\*\* - Please note change of date. Short document on North Korea and targeted news service item on North and South Korea.

## FORTHCOMING NEWS INITIATIVES

Annual Report - 0600 hrs GMT 7 July 1994 - SEE NEWS SERVICE 51/94

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**AI INDEX: AFR 24/WU 01/94  
EMBARGOED UNTIL 30 JUNE 1994**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SENDS REPRESENTATIVES TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

**Two Amnesty International researchers will visit Equatorial Guinea this week to collect information about the human rights situation there.**

**Federico Andreu Guzmán, a lawyer, and Marisé Castro, a member of the staff at Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London, will start their two-week visit in Equatorial Guinea on July 3.**

**The representatives will meet government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations, churches and political parties. They expect to visit Malabo, the capital city located on Bioko Island, as well as the mainland province of Rio Muni.**

**Amnesty International's last visit to Equatorial Guinea was in 1992. While there have been some improvements in the human rights situation since then, arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment of political activists continue.**

**ENDS\**

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**INDIA: CALL FOR RELEASE OF HOSTAGES HELD BY ARMED GROUPS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

Amnesty International called today on armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir to release all hostages they are holding in the course of the current conflict with the Indian Government.

Amnesty International welcomes the release yesterday of two Britons, David Mackie and Kim Housego, who had spent two weeks in the captivity of one such group, the Harkatul Ansar. However, the organization said that many more Indian nationals were still being held hostage by different armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir and should be released immediately.

"Hostage-taking violates all basic principles of international humanitarian law and does not further, in any way, the protection of human rights," Amnesty International said.

The human rights organization has persistently opposed such practices and has previously appealed for the release of several Indian hostages who were held captive for many months by armed groups.

Among them was Pankaj Kumar Sinha, a former legislator of the Congress party, who was released in the first week of this month after a record one year as a captive of an armed opposition group. Amnesty International had appealed for his release in December 1993.

Amnesty International is seeking information, including from the Indian Government, about the fate of five out of ten Congressmen reportedly kidnapped from the state Secretariat in Srinagar in mid-June by a group called the Islamic Front. Five of them are known to have been released, but the fate of the others is unknown. However, other hostages have been tortured and even killed after capture by such groups.

Amnesty International also continues to call on the Indian Government to take immediate steps to implement the organization's recommendations for the protection of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. Grave human rights violations continue to be reported there on a daily basis. Amnesty International said it was deeply disappointed that the Indian Government had still not permitted the organization to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

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