

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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13 June 1991

Further information on (ASA 20/26/91, 12 June 1991) - Extrajudicial Executions

INDIA: 17 civilians (now 25) including

Tahir Ahmad Sheikh,

Ghulam Mohammed

The wife (aged 75) of Ghulam Hassan Khan (name not known)

Mohammed Sayeed Baihaqi and his brother

Mushtaq Ahmed (aged 10)

Abdur Rasheed Mistri

Ghulam Hassan Dar

Mukhtar Ahmed Butt

and others.

On 13 June Amnesty International received reports that the number of victims of alleged extrajudicial killings in the Chota Bazaar district of Srinagar, Kashmir, had risen from 17 to 25 people, all of whom were civilians. The killings in Chota Bazaar took place 4km away from Zainakadal district where armed Kashmiri separatists had earlier shot dead a member of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The killings were carried out by a different unit of the CRPF from the one that was alleged to have been attacked.

The Senior Superintendent of Police on 12 June reportedly admitted that 25 civilians were killed. Eye-witnesses claimed that after an exchange of fire with the militants the security forces fired on pedestrians and shop-keepers in several locations away from where the security forces had originally come under attack. The official version of the story is that the security forces were fired upon in three different places in Srinagar resulting in the death of one member of the paramilitary, and that it was in crossfire that civilian bystanders were killed.

An official statement issued in Srinagar on 13 June admitted that there were "indications of uncontrolled firing by the security forces" and added that the full facts of the incident are under inquiry. The statement went on to say that the security forces involved in the incident had been withdrawn and that an inquiry was being conducted by the government's most senior investigative agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The state government has reportedly announced that Rs. 100,000 compensation will be given to the families of the victims. The local police have reportedly registered a criminal case of murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code against members of the CRPF allegedly involved.

Amnesty International has now obtained the following details about civilians who, according to eyewitnesses, were indiscriminately killed by the security forces in the Chota Bazaar district of Srinagar, apparently in retaliation for the shooting of one of their men: Tahir Ahmad Sheikh, killed outside the medical college; Ghulam Mohammed, a storekeeper at the same college who was reportedly dragged from his shop onto the street and shot; the 75-year-old wife of Ghulam Hassan Khan, who was shot outside the National School Building while sitting in an auto-rickshaw; Mohammed Sayeed Baihaqi and his brother, both of whom were shot dead in an autorickshaw

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while their nephew survived the shooting and is receiving treatment in hospital; Mushtaq Ahmed, a 10-year-old boy; Abdur Rasheed Mistri, the owner of a mechanics workshop who according to one eyewitness was killed in cold blood by three members of the CRPF who entered his workshop opposite the National School Building and shot him despite his pleadings for mercy; and Ghulam Hassan Dar and Mukhtar Ahmed Butt.

PLEASE NOTE: LINE ONE, PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE URGENT ACTION ISSUED ON 12 JUNE (ASA 20/26/91) SHOULD READ "ARMED KASHMIRI SEPARATISTS" AND NOT "ARMED SIKH SEPARATISTS".

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/faxes and airmail letters:

- welcoming the inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation, but expressing concern that the reports from previous inquiries have not been published;
- urging the government to publish the inquiry report, or at least its findings, as soon as it is completed;
- welcoming, and seeking confirmation, of the reports that the security forces concerned have been withdrawn and that the victims' families have been granted compensation;
- urging that adequate compensation be paid to the families of all those killed or injured as a result of indiscriminate firing by the security forces;
- urging that any members of the security forces found responsible for the extrajudicial killings be brought to justice.

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 Chandra Shekhar
Office of the Prime Minister
South Block, Gate No 6
New Delhi 110 011, India

Telegrams: Prime Minister Shekhar, New Delhi, India
Faxes: + 91 11 301 6781
(via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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 25 July 1991.