



H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India
South Block, Raisina Hill,
New Delhi, 110 011
India

Utrecht, 22 July 2008

Concern for the safety of Pervez Imroz

Your excellency,

On behalf of *Aim for human rights* we would like to draw your attention to the attempted assassination of Pervez Imroz, an award-winning human rights lawyer, president of the Jammu & Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) and the founder of the Association for Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP). *Aim for human rights* is an independent Dutch human rights organisation that works on eradicating enforced disappearances as well as on tool development for human rights impact assessment.

The attack was carried out late in the evening in Pervex Imroz's residence, 8 km from the city of Srinagar by state actors, men in CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) and SOG (Special Operations Group) uniforms. The perpetrators lobbed a grenade into the grounds of the house, fired shots in the air, destroyed the property of Pervez Imroz and attacked one of his neighbours, resulting in minor injuries. The attack is an attempt to suspend an ongoing investigation into unmarked graves in Jammu & Kashmir, believed to contain victims of unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture and other abuses.

Aim for human rights expresses its deep concern and strongly condemns the latest threat to the life of Pervez Imroz in the night of June 30th 2008. We also stress the grave and international nature of this armed attack by recalling statements by other organisations as well as the European Parliament resolution of 10 July 2008.

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Aim for human rights has continuously been concerned of the harassment faced by human rights defenders in Indian-administered Kashmir. We express our deepest concern that Kashmiri and Indian authorities systematically fail to protect and support Pervez Imroz and other human rights defenders thus failing to acknowledge their invaluable contribution to the emergence of justice and democracy in the region as well as to advocacy on behalf of the families of disappeared.

Aim for human rights hereby urges the Indian government to:

- thoroughly investigate the attack and punish the perpetrators
- ensure the safety of Pervez Imroz and other human rights defenders in Jammu & Kashmir
- ensure that independent and impartial investigation into the unmarked graves are undertaken, and that those involved can carry out their work without further harassment.

Yours Sincerely,

Martha Meijer
Director Aim for Human Rights

CC:

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