

Amnesty UK South Asia

November 2025



South Asia Coordinator Team

You have been sent this Newsletter because you or your local group opted in to receive Actions, Campaigns and Updates on South Asia. You can opt out at any time by contacting one of us.

Please let us know if you have taken any actions or need further information.

Thank you for your support.

Cherry, Jerry, Irfan, Faissal & Will

NEW CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF GARMENT WORKERS

Launch of this campaign is planned for **29 November**, focusing on violations of workers' right to freedom of association and decent conditions in four target countries: **Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka** and the steps that brands importing clothing must take to ensure goods conform to ethical standards that maintain the rights of workers. Two reports will be published very soon:

1. Stitched Up: Denial of Freedom of Association for Garment Workers

This report examines the different ways in which workers are adversely affected by the restrictions on the right to freedom of association by states and by their employers. Contact jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk for a copy.



2. Abandoned by Fashion: The Urgent Need for Fashion Brands to Champion Workers' Rights



This report provides insight into the policies, commitments and active promotion of the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining in key fashion brands and retailers' supply chains. It identifies the steps that brands can take to promote the right to freedom of association, and, at the same time, help mitigate the endemic human rights abuses found throughout the industry, such as low wages, overwork, harassment and

systemic gender discrimination and sexual violence. Contact jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk for a copy.

The UK is particularly important in this campaign because we are the home of more relevant brands than other countries. Our Activist Led Campaign needs support from UK activists. Please contact Jerry Allen (jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk) for more details.

INDIA

BK16 Action

In another push for release of the six individuals who are still in jail (Mahesh Raut, Surendra Gadling, Hany Babu, Jyoti Jagtap, Sagar Gorkhe, Ramesh Gaichor), some held for more than 7 years without trial, we are collaborating with Amnesty groups in Europe and the US in an action on 10 December, Human Rights Day. Actions you can take include writing solidarity letters/ cards to the individuals and letters to your MP and street actions. Please post information and photos on your social media platforms. Visual materials on the six individuals can be accessed via the links below:



[Mahesh Raut](#)

[Surendra Gadling](#)

[Hany Babu](#)

[Jyoti Jagtap](#)

[Sagar Gorkhe](#)

[Ramesh Gaichor](#)

There is an updated online petition you can sign [here](#). Contact cherry.bird@amnesty.org.uk for more information.



Note: Mahesh Raut is currently on "extended medical bail" of six weeks for treatment of his rheumatoid arthritis, but is due to return to jail later this month. Although he is not yet 40 years of age, his health is already compromised as rheumatoid arthritis is a serious condition that does not go away.

Read more from Free-them-all.net and The Wire [here](#).

Jagtar Singh Johal (Jaggi) – Scottish Sikh from Dumbarton still held in an Indian jail

Jaggi's brother, Gurpreet, who is a Labour councillor in Dumbarton, says he has been stopped four times in the last two years at the UK border when returning from holiday, with no explanation given. He is questioning whether this linked to his legal efforts to discover whether British intelligence played a role in his brother's arrest eight years ago. Jaggi is accused of being a member of a terrorist group, the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), which carried out attacks in the Punjab region. The charges state that he travelled to Paris in 2013 and delivered £3,000 to other KLF

figures, with the money then used to purchase weapons employed in a series of murders and attacks against Hindu nationalist and other religious leaders in 2016 and 2017. He has not been found guilty in any Indian court, and a series of delays caused by the Indian prosecutor's inability to assemble credible witnesses mean he has been detained without full trial.



A UK court hearing is due to take place soon, in which Jaggi's lawyers, including legal representatives from Reprieve, will seek to discover if he was arrested in India in 2017 after a tipoff by British intelligence. Much of this is likely to be held in closed session.

Read the Guardian article [here](#).

Appeal for withholding assent to the Maharashtra special public security bill



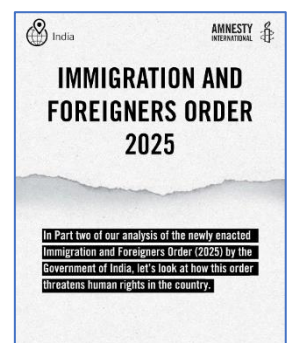
Aakar Patel, Chair of the Board at Amnesty International India, has written an open letter urgently appealing to the Governor of Maharashtra to deny assent to the Maharashtra Special Public Security Bill, which he says is a deeply flawed and dangerous piece of legislation. It is framed as a countermeasure to so-called "urban naxalism," but in fact the Bill threatens constitutionally and internationally protected human rights. Naxalism is seen as a decades-old rural and communist-inspired movement to overthrow the Indian government through armed force. The term "urban naxalism" has no legal definition in Indian law and is used to describe intellectuals, academics and other activists deemed to support armed insurrection, when in fact they are only working for the rights of marginalised groups in the country. Essentially, this Bill risks criminalising legitimate dissent and there is high potential for its mis-use because of its vague language, discriminatory focus and absence of judicial oversight.

Read the full letter by Aakar Patel [here](#).

Amnesty analysis of effects of the newly enacted Immigration and Foreigners Order 2025

This Order grants sweeping powers to the Indian Government, enabling them to restrict civil society activities, jail refugees and censor journalists. It will also put many individuals at risk of statelessness. Specifically, the Government will be able to:

- Censor foreigners in India
- Detain and deport individuals without safeguards, even if they were born in India or have lived there for many years
- Expand biased the foreigners' tribunals across India



For example, the order requires foreigners to obtain permission from Government before producing films or digital content, which is inconsistent with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which India signed and ratified in 1979. Or, a Rohingya family who fled to India can be deported back to Myanmar if they are not considered to have valid papers. The foreigners' tribunals have a dark record as they have already been used to force people (mainly Muslims) who have lived in Assam for many years to move back to Bangladesh, even though they no longer have connections there, just because they are unable to produce formal documentation as evidence of their residency.

Read more on Amnesty International's [Facebook](#) page.

Take action against JCB: Write to your local authorities

Our Activist Led Campaign (ALC) against JCB is based on the complicity of JCB in human rights violations by authorities in Palestine, India and Kashmir, who use JCB equipment for punitive destruction of property, as documented by Amnesty International. The primary objectives of the ALC are to:

- Increase public awareness of JCB's role in punitive destruction of housing in India, Kashmir and Palestine
- Damage JCB's reputation because of its complicity in human rights abuses
- Increase the accountability of JCB in monitoring the use of its equipment after sale – we know they can do this
- Push JCB to limit and ultimately prevent the use of its equipment in punitive destruction of housing



AIUK groups and individuals are working with other like-minded organisations to publicise these issues through leaflets and street actions, especially near JCB outlets and events. Leaflets and further information are available from cherry.bird@amnesty.org.uk if you would like to include this information in your street stalls or would like to develop local partnerships.

You can also take action locally by writing to your local authority asking them not to buy JCB equipment. A template letter is attached with this newsletter. This action can also be applied to garden centres, building contractors etc.

KASHMIR

Unrest spreads to Ladakh

In Ladakh, one of the two union territories of Indian administered Kashmir, at least four people were killed and around 80 injured after police opened fire on protesters in Leh in September. Many protesters were detained and the authorities cut internet services, imposed a curfew and sent in paramilitary troops. Police arrested Sonam Wangchuk, a prominent scientist and activist who has been at the forefront of protests, alleging he incited a mob with provocative speeches, a charge he denies. Amnesty International condemned the authorities' use of violent control methods, saying "The indiscriminate use of firearms against protesters is always unlawful." Immediate investigation was called for into how firearms were deployed, why police used lethal force against protests that were largely peaceful, and why other methods of crowd control were apparently not attempted first. The protests were part of a peaceful movement initiated in 2021 seeking greater autonomy from India, job quotas and special status to protect the region's distinct identity and culture – it is mainly Buddhist. Frustration has built up as there has been no attempt to address these issues.



Read the Amnesty statement [here](#). And a BBC report [here](#).

Update on unrest in Azad Kashmir



The situation in Azad Kashmir is calmer now. A new Prime Minister is about to be installed, but protesters say their demands have still not been fully met. Although the prices of flour and electricity have been reduced, negotiations continued between the protesters and the government over more long-term demands, such as a reduction in the privileges of officials. Protesters say that Pakistan's all-powerful military establishment exercises autocratic control over the region. They believe that moves

such as seat reservations, or the prevalence of Pakistan-based mainstream political parties, are further designed to suppress indigenous dissent, exacerbating the misgovernance and the rampant corruption that the locals have been rising against.

Read the article in The Diplomat [here](#). Read our blog on the protests [here](#).

BANGLADESH

Bawm Prisoners Individual at Risk Case

The Bawm Prisoner IAR Case needs your support. A new Urgent Action is to be published soon. Currently we are asking groups to write letters to MPs (see attached template).

In April 2024, 126 Indigenous Bawm people, including 30 women and children, were arbitrarily arrested as part of an ongoing military operation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh. Three of the Bawm prisoners have died in jail.

Amnesty International said: “There is CCTV footage of the robbery that shows who robbed the banks,” “Instead of using it to identify the perpetrators, your government is persecuting an entire Indigenous community.” It is collective punishment. The international Working Group on Indigenous Affairs recently stated that “more than 150 Bawm people remain detained, among them women and children and many suffering from critical health conditions which go untreated.”



Please look out for the new Urgent Action. Meanwhile you can help to raise awareness of these prisoners by writing a letter or email to your MP. The suggested text is attached with a summary description. For further information please contact jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk

Dalit Women Sanitation Workers and the Fight for Water and Dignity



A new report, *[‘Left Behind in the Storm: Dalit Women Sanitation Workers and the Fight for Water and Dignity’](#)*, documents the huge barriers faced by Dalit (sometimes called “Untouchable”) women sanitation workers in Bangladesh, in accessing safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. It highlights their vulnerability and exclusion in climate change relief programmes. These workers are largely invisible in government policies on climate change, water and sanitation due to their caste, gender and occupation.

“We low caste are forgotten”. One sanitation worker told Amnesty International. Sanitation workers have no household water connections for drinking, washing, cooking and cleaning.

The Bangladeshi government must adopt an anti-discrimination law that covers caste discrimination. This new Active Led Campaign calls on the Government of Bangladesh to ensure the rights of Dalit sanitation workers and urgently address access to water for the community. If you would like to know more about this campaign, please contact jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk

An action will be ready soon. [Please see the Blog](#) and the [full report](#).



Further Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh

The Ahmadis in Bangladesh face increasing problems. Several Islamist groups have announced a “Grand Rally” in Dhaka on 15 November, demanding that the government declare Ahmadis non-Muslims and ban them from using Islamic terms. They’ve also threatened to bring the capital to a standstill until their demands are met. If the government were to comply, it could set a dangerous precedent for the Ahmadis. A statement from the organisers of the rally says that Ahmadi are “destroying the faith and creed of this country’s Muslims.” “If the government ignores this peaceful demand, we will launch a powerful movement to enforce it. [Please see the full article.](#)

This is happening at a time when many religious minorities are facing persecution.

SRI LANKA

More mass graves at Chemmani

The current investigation began in May 2025 after construction workers stumbled upon human bones. It is a stark reminder of Sri Lanka’s unresolved past. The Jaffna Magistrate Court ordered excavation and further investigation. The mass graves have brought the country’s troubled history back into focus 16 years after the civil war ended. For the country’s Tamils, who have long demanded accountability for war crimes, atrocities and human-rights violations, the site has renewed apprehensions over the real prospects for justice. So far, around 240 skeletal remains have been recovered by a team of experts.

[Please see the Himal report.](#)

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan-Pakistan Clashes Escalate



Heavy cross-border fighting between Afghan and Pakistani forces in October left dozens dead and hundreds wounded before a [ceasefire](#) was brokered in Doha on 19 October 2025. Both sides have accused the other of initiating strikes, with Pakistan carrying out air and drone strikes inside Afghanistan and the Taliban reporting attacks on Pakistani posts along the frontier.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported 50 civilians killed and 447 injured in the cross-border violence, with women and children among the casualties. The clashes disrupted essential services, displaced families, and forced cancellations in public life, including the withdrawal of Afghanistan’s cricket team from an international series after three local players were [killed](#) in one strike.

Read more on this [here](#).

Mass deportations from Pakistan continue

In the wake of the clashes Pakistan sharply increased deportations of Afghan migrants, expelling several thousand people in October. [According to the UNHCR](#), more than 300,000 civilians have been forced to return to Afghanistan this year alone, with escalating tensions between the two neighbouring countries worsening an already dire situation.

Amnesty International has [repeatedly called](#) on the Pakistani government to stop its deportation of vulnerable Afghan nationals. Rapid expulsions, combined with damage to livelihoods, risks deepening an already severe humanitarian crisis for families returned to Taliban-run areas. Babu Ram Pant, Deputy regional director for South Asia at Amnesty International, stated:

“Afghans seeking refuge and asylum in Pakistan after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021 are particularly at risk. These include Afghan women and girls, journalists, human rights defenders, women protestors, artists, and former Afghan government and security officials who fled Taliban’s persecution.”

Learn more about the human rights situation of Afghans in Pakistan in Amnesty’s [“Treat us like Human Beings” Report](#). Take action by [signing the petition](#) to end human rights violations in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan hit by another Earthquake

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck northern Afghanistan before dawn on 3 November 2025, centred near the city of Mazar-e-Sharif. [Officials reported](#) at least 20 dead and several hundred injured, with some accounts putting injuries above 600 and figures still rising as rescue teams continue to recover people from collapsed mud-brick houses. The quake damaged infrastructure and caused widespread displacement; power outages were reported after transmission lines from neighbouring countries were affected. UN teams and local emergency services are on the ground assessing needs and delivering urgent aid. This is just months after the [deadliest earthquake](#) in the history of the country killed 2,200 dead and many more injured and displaced. With the [harsh winter](#) fast approaching in Afghanistan’s vast mountainous regions, thousands of displaced people living in makeshift shelters remain acutely vulnerable to the cold.

NEPAL

Gen Z Leaders Draft Agreement Seeks Justice for Victims



The nine-point agreement submitted by Gen Z leaders to the Government demands recognition that the September uprising was a response to legitimate dissatisfaction with Nepal’s democratic processes and distrust of the government; thorough investigation into the assets and sources of political parties; transparency in government decision making; and identification of why lethal force was used by security forces during the uprising. It was submitted to Prime Minister Karki’s advisors on Tuesday 11 November for discussion and agreement.

Read the Kathmandu Post report [here](#).

Prime Minister Karki Calls Out Corruption

The Prime Minister appears committed to fighting corruption before the election next year by creating an open competition for the General Manager position at Nepal Airlines Corporation – Nepal’s flagship airline. Additionally, PM Karki is actively pursuing updates on the efforts to reclaim misappropriated land belonging to Tribhuvan University (TU), the oldest and largest university in Nepal. At the conclusion of a meeting on the matter, she made it clear that land belonging to the university must not be unlawfully sold to, or occupied by, any individual or organisation.

Both of these recent actions by the Prime Minister signal her willingness to act in the spirit of the protests that led to her election: to fight corruption and protect the best interests of the Nepali people. However, sustained commitment must be shown by this government to earn the trust of the protestors.

Read more the Himalayan Times reports [here](#) and [here](#).

Local Protest Ends with Resolution Between Residents and the Government

Locals of Melamchi have reached agreement with the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, after an 11-day shut-down of the water flow from the Melamchi river to the Kathmandu valley. The conditions agreed include the release and utilisation of the Social Upliftment Programme budget, infrastructural repairs and a prioritisation of flood-affected communities in employment opportunities linked to the Melamchi Water Supply Project. The shut-down was a protest in response to the non-implementation of agreement for these stipulations that had been reached last year. Once more, it represents the courage and determination of the Nepali people when faced with broken promises.

Read more in the Kathmandu Post [here](#).

PAKISTAN

Abduction of student activist as he visits his daughter in hospital

Amnesty International, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), and several student and rights groups have condemned the alleged enforced disappearance of Ghani Aman Chandio, central chief organiser of the Sindh National Students Federation (SNSF), who was reportedly abducted from a hospital in Karachi. According to eyewitnesses, on 28 October at Memona Hospital in Karachi, where Chandio had brought his infant daughter for treatment, a group of armed men in civilian clothes, allegedly accompanied by Paramilitary Rangers personnel, entered the hospital, seized mobile phones, destroyed CCTV footage, and blindfolded Chandio before taking him away in front of his family.

Amnesty International posted on Facebook “The abduction of student activist Ghani Aman Chandio on 28 October from Memona Hospital in Karachi, allegedly by state forces, is deeply troubling. The abduction of a father visiting his hospitalized infant daughter is not only cruel and inhumane, but also a blatant attack on his rights to liberty, dignity and due process. The Pakistani authorities must immediately disclose Ghani’s fate and whereabouts and ensure his safe return. Further, authorities must conduct a prompt, thorough, independent, impartial, transparent and effective investigation into his abduction, and bring to justice all those suspected to be responsible.”

Read more [here](#).