

Paris, 3rd October 2006

Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad
Office of the Chief minister
Civil Secretariat / Srinagar
Jammu
India

Denial of a passport for Parvez Imroz, lawyer.

Dear Chief minister,

On Friday June 2nd 2006, the eleventh "LUDOVIC-TRARIEUX INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE" was awarded by the Jury to Mr. Parvez Imroz for his work in favor of human rights.

Mr Parvez Imroz, lawyer in Srinagar, who heads the Jammu&Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society and founded the *Association of parents of disappeared persons* has applied for the renewal of his passeport in 2004. Since thereafter the authorities have neither formally denied him the passport nor given reasons for its non-issuance. Parvez Imroz believes the state is unlikely to issue him the passport because his human rights activities. This situation contravenes the Indian constitution and international treaties like ICCPR - section 12 guarantees the right to travel outside the country - to which the government of India is signatory. Denial of travel documents deprives him the right to have unhindered access with the international NGOs and human rights organizations, which is also a violation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Several previous Amnesty documents have reported threats and other difficulties experienced by Imroz because of his human rights involvement. The organization has asked the government of India on many occasions to support the work of human rights defenders and fulfill their obligations under international law, such as the right to travel outside the country and the principal enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders so that they can carry out their work without any hindrance.

Amnesty International protests against the fact that a great democracy as India prevents Mr Parvez Imroz to come to France to receive the prestigious human rights Prize for a lawyer "Ludovic Trarieux" on October 13th. At this moment, we respectfully ask you, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, to give your administration instructions to deliver a passport to Mr Parvez Imroz.

Yours sincerely

Asia team
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