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31 October 2007

Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano
State Capitol
West Wing
1700 W. Washington, 9th Fl.
Phoenix
AZ 85007

Dear Governor Napolitano,

Anant Tripathi – incarcerated in Arizona

I am a solicitor working for Fair Trials International, a human rights charity based in London. We work to promote fair trials according to international standards of justice and to defend the rights of those facing criminal charges in a country other than their own.

We are instructed by Anant Tripathi, a Fijian citizen, and his family regarding his incarceration in Arizona since 1992 on charges of fraud.

Our concerns

We are concerned that the basis upon which Anant was convicted and the lack of access to appropriate facilities to enable the Anant to answer the charges against him violate the basic conditions of justice demanded by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the USA is a signatory.

To summarise, we do not believe that the following rights have been observed:

- **No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Article 7).**
- **Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention (Article 9)**
- **All persons shall be equal before the courts and tribunals. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, or of his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law (Article 14).**

Anant was a legal researcher in California in 1992 whose firm was challenging some of the practices of Maricopa County Attorney. Subsequently, he was accused by the same office of trying to defraud others in a real estate appraisal for a bail bond scheme and convicted to 52.5 years in jail, an excessive sentence.

We understand that three of the witnesses that testified against Anant later either wrote letters to the government or testified that Anant was innocent and that they had been pressurised to give evidence against him by Maricopa County employees. We understand that the testimony of these witnesses confirming this is a matter of public record.

Anant has been appealing against conviction ever since. We understand that there has been a deliberate policy to deny legal access to Anant and prevent him from making legal calls/ posting legal mail. We enclose a memo from the Arizona Department of Corrections obtained by my client's family which details the obstruction that has taken place.

We also understand that, following a recent death at the jail, Anant wrote to the deceased's family querying the official verdict that the death was by natural causes. As a result, Anant was placed in solitary confinement for several weeks, although he has now been moved back amongst the main prison population and the verdict on the deceased inmate changed to unnatural causes.

We intend to raise Anant's case with the Foreign Office of his home country and we should be grateful for your urgent comments on the treatment and status of Anant.

Yours sincerely

PP 

Gemma Rowland
Solicitor
Legal Team
FAIR TRIALS INTERNATIONAL

Cc: Terry Goddard

Michael J Brodsky, Esq.

US Department of Justice

Judge Boyd Johnson

Judge William O'Neill

Robert Stewart, Warden

Tara Diaz, Warden

Dora Schiro, Arizona Dept of Corrections