



University and College Union

Sally Hunt *General secretary*

Carlow Street
London NW1 7LH

Telephone 020 7756 2500

Fax 020 7756 2501

Email shunt@ucu.org.uk

10 May 2013

Dr J Bhagwati
High Commission of India
India House
Aldwych
LONDON
WC2B 4NA

Your Excellency

Re: Devender Pal Singh Bhullar

On behalf of the 117,000 members of the University and College Union (UCU) in the UK, I am writing to you with my concerns about the decision issued by the Supreme Court of India in Devender Pal Singh Bhullar's case on 12 April 2013.

According to Amnesty International, Devender Pal Singh's original trial fell far short of international standards for a fair trial. In addition, the Supreme Court's decision raises concerns about the treatment of delay in the disposal of mercy petitions.

Because of these concerns, the UCU calls on the Indian government to not execute Devender Pal Singh Bhullar, to remove him from death row immediately, and retry his case in proceedings that comply with international fair trial standards.

The UCU also urges you to immediately halt any further executions, commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment, and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Finally, we would remind you that the UN General Assembly has repeatedly called for a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and pointing out that India's decision to resume executions has set the country against regional and global trends towards abolition of the death penalty.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt
UCU General Secretary

Copy: Rt. Hon William Hague, Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office