

Indian engineer K. Suryanarayana abducted, killed by Taliban

Indian engineer Kasula Suryanarayana, abducted by the Taliban in Afghanistan on April 28, was killed by his kidnappers on April 30. The beheaded body of 41-year-old Suryanarayana was found by a police patrol in the Hassan Karez area in southern Zabul province.

Suryanarayan, an employee of a Bahrain-based company Roshan, was abducted from Zabul province, where he had been working on a telecom project on the Kabul-Kandahar road.

He left behind his wife, three children and aged parents in Hyderabad. He was the family's sole bread-earner and had taken up the new job a few months to give a better education to his school-going children.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh condoled the death of Suryanarayana and asked authorities to assure the family that the government would look after them.

The Indian's killing is the second such murder in the past few months by the Taliban. It came even as an Indian team arrived in Kabul to negotiate his release after the Taliban gave a 24-hour deadline for Indian companies to leave Afghanistan failing which they said they would execute Suryanarayana.

The deadline expired at 6 p.m. on April 30. Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, a spokesman of the Taliban, later claimed from an unknown location that Suryanarayana was killed before the deadline had passed.

Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said in a statement in New Delhi that India would "never bow before such acts of terror" and would not stop its reconstruction work in Afghanistan. He also asked the international community to join hands in defeating terrorism.

"The Government of India is appalled by this dastardly and inhuman



Soldiers carry the coffin containing the body of Indian engineer K. Suryanarayana at Kabul International Airport, on May 1, before it was repatriated to India.

act of terror on the part of the Taliban and its sponsors, which has resulted in the tragic and untimely death of an innocent Indian citizen, who, like many of our other compatriots, had been making a contribution to Afghanistan's reconstruction with dedication and diligence," Saran said.

"The government and people of India will never bow to such acts of terrorism and will continue their fraternal assistance to the people of Afghanistan in their endeavours to bring peace, stability and economic recovery to their country ravaged by years of conflict," he added. ■

Condolences

President Hamid Karzai

In an address on Afghan Radio:

The enemies of peace, stability and reconstruction of Afghanistan brutally murdered an Indian engineer and once again they showed their hostility to the people of Afghanistan.

In a message to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh:

While this is one more sacrifice offered by India in Afghanistan, I am grateful to you and the people of India for your understanding and for reiterating your resolve not to be deterred by terrorists.

In a message to K. Suryanarayana's wife, he wrote:

Our people share your pain and grief and will never forget the sacrifice offered by your late husband.

In a message to K. Suryanarayana's children, he wrote:

I hope you would find some solace in knowing that your father was a brave and kind man who helped Afghans improve their lives...



His Majesty Muhammad Zahir Shah

The enemies of Afghanistan have murdered an Indian engineer during his work in Zabul highway who had come to Afghanistan for service, with our deep sadness we strongly condemn this brutal act...



Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Minister of Foreign Affairs

I strongly condemn this barbaric and heinous act, I express my deepest sadness and condolences...



Muhammad Younis Qanoni, Head of Wolesi Jirga

I, on behalf of members of Wolesi Jirga, present deepest sadness in regard of the murder of Mr. Suryanarayana



Dr. Amin Farhang, Acting Minister of Economy

Suryanarayana's killing in no way represents the views the Afghan people.



Dr. S.M. Amin Fatimie, Minister of Health

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences over the brutal death of Suryanarayana.



Amena Afzali, Acting Minister of Youth Affairs

The People of Afghanistan are dreadfully sorry for the cruel and violent action...

