

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

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January 24, 2013

Shri A. K. Parashar

Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders

National Human Rights Commission

Faridkot House

Copernicus Marg

New Delhi-110001

Email: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert-India - Urgent Appeal for Action - Orissa/Bhubaneswar: Illegal Arrest and Detention of Human Rights Defender Mr. Pradipta Nayak- Reg

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a Forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavours to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are now writing to express our grave concern over the arrest of human rights defender Mr. Pradipta Nayak from Bhubaneswar, Orissa for protesting against exorbitant fees that has been levied by DAP School, Bhubaneswar, Orissa.

The Honorary Working Secretary of Human Rights Defenders Alert-India has received an information from Mr. Dharendra Panda of Orissa regarding the arrest of the State Coordinator of Human Rights Education Mr. Pradipta Nayak.

Name of the alleged perpetrators: Orissa Police

Date and time of incident: January 24, 2013, 10.50 a.m.

Place of incident: Bhubaneswar, Orissa

About the Human Rights Defender:

Mr. Pradipta Nayak is a social activist and the State Coordinator for the State of Orissa of the Institute of Human Rights Education, a national program existing since 1997 and aiming at imparting of a culture of human rights among the students in the high schools. At present it covers over 317,477 students and 4512 teachers in 3934 schools across 18 states in India.

Incident:

From the received information it was confirmed that Mr. Pradipta Nayak was arrested today at 10.50 a.m. by the Bhubaneswar police for protesting against the exorbitant fees that has been charged by the school. It was also confirmed that the parents of DAP school were protesting against the excess fees for the past 8 days and Mr. Pradipta Nayak had been helping them through all means. Mr. Pradipta Nayak was also injured in the police attack today.

Appeal

We, therefore, urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that

- Mr. Pradipta Nayak is released immediately without any conditions.
- The physical and psychological safety and integrity of Mr. Pradipta Nayak is ensured
- The authorities conform to the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 9, 1998, especially:
 - its Article 1, which states that “everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels”;
 - and its Article 12.2, which states that “the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence

of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration”;

- The authorities ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by India.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

Honorary National Working Secretary,

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India