

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,
Mrs. Margaret Sekagya
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Email: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Dear Ma'am,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Uttar Pradesh: Attempt on life of Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi by unidentified assailants- 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 regarding the attack made on Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, Human Rights Defender and General Secretary of the People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights based in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh by three unidentified assailants on the 24th of April, 2013.

About the Human Rights Defender under attack:

Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi is one of the prominent human rights defenders of the country and a founding member of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), which works for the upliftment of the marginalized sections of the society. His work has been recognized with awards like Gwangju Human Rights Award (2007), the ACHA Star Peace award (2008) and the International Human Rights Prize of the city of Weimar (2010).

The Perpetrators:

Three unidentified assailants armed with a pistol and knife.

Date and Time of Incident:

24th of April, 2013, at about 8.00 p.m.

Place of Incident:

Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi's residence i.e. Door No. S 4/2A Daulatpur, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

The Incident

On the above mentioned date of incident, three unidentified assailants knocked on the house of Dr. Lenin, and called him outside the house. On his coming out, they suddenly fired upon him with a pistol with the intention of killing him.

Since Dr. Raghuvanshi ducked, the bullet missed him but then one of the other assailants took out a knife and attacked him, aiming for his foot. After this all three assailants ran away taking advantage of the darkness in the lane outside Dr Raghuvanshi's house.

During the attack Dr. Raghuvanshi tried to resist the assailants and also tried to catch them. He even chased them on his newly purchased two-wheeler 'Scooty' but at the end of the lane, at the main road where construction was going on, there was a JCB parked in the middle of the road. The driver of the JCB came down attacked Dr Lenin and then fled. On getting information police personnel from Paharia police-out-post also came but no First Information Report (FIR) was registered; neither was any step taken for ensuring the security of Dr. Raghuvanshi.

It is noteworthy that there have been attacks made on Dr. Raghuvanshi in the past too because of the human rights work that he undertakes.

Appeal

We, therefore, urge you to immediately take necessary steps to:

- Ensure the physical and psychological safety and integrity of the afore – mentioned human rights defender Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi and his family

- Ensure that the FIR is registered immediately and actions are taken to identify and apprehend the assailants by directing concerned officials
- Ensure that all human rights defenders in India are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment in all circumstances.
- Guarantee 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Henri Tiphagne

Honorary Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India