

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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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 – India/Assam: Environmentalist
Akhil Gogoi arrested - 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 on receiving information from reliable sources regarding the arrest of prominent environmental rights and RTI activist Mr. Akhil Gogoi for addressing a news conference where he condemned the police firing on protestors of eviction.

Incident

According to the information received, Akhi Gogoi was arrested on the 24th of June, 2011 from the Press Club here while he was addressing a news conference. Gogoi is the leader of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS). Accusing him of instigating violent activists in Dispur area on Wednesday in which three persons were killed and over 50 injured, the police took him into custody when he was addressing a press conference.

Altogether ten cases, including four non-bailable ones, were registered against Gogoi with the police accusing him of being responsible for leading the violent activists demanding land deed for the government land which they had encroached on the

hills. The case against him at Dispur Police Station has been filed in Case No.1259/11 under sections 143/147/436/353/333 of the Indian Penal Code

Appeal

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

- Guarantee, in all circumstances, the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Akhil Gogoi
- Release Gogoi and drop all charges levelled against him immediately
- Guarantee in all circumstances that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals, and free of all restrictions.
- Ensure in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international and regional human rights instruments ratified by India.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

National Coordinator

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India