

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

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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 / Madhya Pradesh - Urgent Appeal for Action - Human Rights Defender Dr. Sunilam and protestors of thermal power plant in Chhindwara 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 regarding the arrest of Dr. Sunilam for his involvement in the protests against the Thermal Power Plant (Adani Pench Power Limited) at Chausara.

Incident

Senior socialist leader and main convener of action committee who is protesting proposed thermal power plant and irrigation project and Ex MLA from Multai, Dr. Sunilam was arrested by Madhya Pradesh Chhindwara Police in the morning on the 26th of June, 2011, when he was going to the project site where tribals affected by the project were organizing a rally to get back their land for agriculture. Police allegedly beat up the protesters and also took away their cell phones. Many were arrested but they have not been given food and there has been no updates being provided to the Family Members of the arrestees. Dr. Sunilam is reportedly being

detained at the Chindi Rest House which is located at a distance of 65 km from Chindi. The charges under which he has been arrested have not been made known.

Appeal

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

- Immediately and unconditionally release the aforementioned human rights defenders and drop all charges against them, as it is believed that these measures have been taken against them solely as a result of their human rights activities;
- Ensure that the treatment of the aforementioned human rights defenders, whilst in detention, adheres to all those conditions in the “Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment”, adopted by UN General Assembly Resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
- Carry out an immediate, impartial and thorough investigation into the arrest and detention of the aforementioned human rights defenders, with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
- Guarantee the respect of human rights defender and the fundamental freedoms in accordance with national laws and international human rights standards
- Ensure that all such human rights defenders can freely conduct legitimate activities promoting and protecting human rights without fear of reprisals, in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

National Coordinator
Human Rights Defenders Alert - India