

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 - Urgent Appeal for Action – India – Uttar Pradesh – Gorakhpur – Threat to life against human rights defender Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, the Executive Director of People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights - 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 the threats and intimidation against Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi – a human rights defender who is pursuing the Sohrab killing case recent times in Gorakhpur.

Incident

Name of the Perpetrators: J.P. Mishra (as mentioned during his mobile conversation with Dr. Lenin)

Place of incident: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Date and time of incident: 29th November, 2011 around 5:27 pm

Lenin Raghuvanshi is a Dalit rights activist from India. He is one of the founding members of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) which works for the upliftment of the marginalised sections of the society. His work has been recognized with awards like Gwangju Human Rights Award (2007), the Association for Communal Harmony - ACHA Star Peace award (2008) and the International Human Rights Prize of the city of Weimar (2010).

According to the information received, Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) Secretary General / Executive Director Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi received a threatening call from mobile phone. He is pursuing the case of Sohrab killing in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh, India. He abused and threatened Dr. Lenin.

Case detail:

On 29th November, 2011 around 5:27 pm Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi, Secretary General / Executive Director of Peoples' Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) received threatening call from mobile number +94757251733 on his mobile (9935599333). The caller was abusing by using filthy words. He also gave threat to his life saying "You will be towed" and "if you speak too much you will be shot out". During that time Dr. Lenin was busy in the meeting with his associates in the office and he became distracted.

At the mean time around 5: 42 pm Dr. Lenin immediately released an urgent note in facebook. Around 6:22 pm Dr. Lenin rang on same number but he did not receive any response from that side. When he rang again he came to know about the identity of the caller. The caller said, "My name is J.P Mishra, I am resident of Gorakhpur. You did not know about my power. I can do anything. Son, I have relation with many person you know Tulsi Singh. Now you understand what type of person I am. I lived in Mumbai I can do anything. If you are Governor or Chief Minister of the state, understand I have worth to do anything. What is your worth monthly earning of only 10 thousand and 20 thousand". The caller was speaking in Bhojpuri mixed Hindi language.

Immediately a letter through email was sent to Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission and Director General of Police and on 30th November, 2011 same letter was sent through post.

It is noted that high level enquiry is going in the Soharab killing case in Gorakhpur. In this matter on behalf of the organization he made a complaint in which the name of Sri Aditya Yogi Nath (Member of Parliament, Bhartiya Janta Party) also came. The caller was also telling he was resident of Gorakhpur. Through his dialogue it seems he was near to the Sri Aditya Yogi Nath ji, because he was assuming Dr. Lenin as any Government officer. He was telling he is making call from South Africa and sometime America.

A high level enquiry must be conducted against the alleged perpetrator and provide security to the Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi and the witness.

Appeal

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

1. Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi as well as all human rights defenders in India;
2. Order an immediate, thorough, effective, transparent and impartial investigation into the issue of death threats against Dr. Lenin, the result of which must be made public, in order to identify all those responsible, bring them before a civil competent and impartial tribunal and apply to them the penal sanctions provided by the law;
3. Put an end to acts of harassment and threats against Dr. Lenin more generally, against all human rights defenders in India;
4. Ensure that protection and security be provided to Human Rights Defender Dr. Lenin Raghuvanshi;
5. 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”;
 - its Article 6(a), which provides that “everyone has the right, individually and in associations with others, to know, seek, obtain, receive and hold information about all human rights and fundamental freedoms”;
 - 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”.
6. 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

Hon. National Working Secretary,

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India