

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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March 10, 2012

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,

Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya

C/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights - Palais Wilson

United Nations Office at Geneva

CH 1211 Geneva 10

Email: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Dear Ma'am,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action - India/Madhya Pradesh:
Morena - IPS officer killed for stopping illegal mining - 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 attack, threat or with security concerns.

We are now writing to express our grave concern over the case of an IPS Officer crushed to death while he tried to stop illegal mining activity. We believe that it was the endeavor of the IPS Officer, to prevent the illegal mining that posed serious threat to the right of life and environmental rights of the locals, which resulted in his killing and strongly condemn the same.

Incident

Name of the Perpetrators: Manoj Gurjar (Tractor Driver)

Place of incident: Banmore, Morena District, Madhya Pradesh

Date and time of incident: 8th March 2012 (Thursday) around 1.00 pm

As per the information received, Mr. Narendra Kumar (30 years), a young IPS officer from Morena District of Madhya Pradesh was crushed to death by the

mining mafia on March 8, 2012 (Thursday). Narendra Kumar was a 2009 batch IPS officer being posted as a Sub-Divisional Police Officer at Banmore in Morena district on probation a month ago. He had taken action on the mining mafia by seizing a number of trucks and tractors engaged in illegal quarrying. His wife Madhurani Tewatia, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is also posted in Madhya Pradesh but is presently on maternity leave in Delhi.

The incident occurred at Banmore at around 1.00 p.m. when Kumar, who was out patrolling in his official jeep, saw the trolley loaded with stones.

Kumar had received information about illegally mined stones being carried in a tractor. Kumar signalled the driver to stop but he did not pay heed. So, he followed the vehicle, cut in and stood in front of the vehicle after getting down from his jeep. But the tractor driver, Manoj Gurjar, drove on and knocked down the officer who was crushed under the wheels. Mr. Kumar was rushed to the hospital where he was declared brought dead. The driver, Manoj Gurjar, has been arrested under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.

It appears that the mining mafia, which is active in the area, was responsible for the incident.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Chambal Range D P Gupta said Kumar had been trying hard to stop illegal quarrying activities in the area and in the process he got killed.

Appeal

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

1. Ensure physical and psychological safety and integrity of deceased Mr. Narendra Kumar's wife and the family;
2. Order an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation in this regard and book the perpetrators under the appropriate provisions of law;
3. Ensure provision of adequate compensation and rendering of justice to the victim's family members;

4. Stop the illegal mining in the region which can wreak havoc on the environment and the lives of the locals and ensure that stringent measures against the illegal mining land mafias be taken by the authorities of the state of Madhya Pradesh;
5. 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.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

Hon. National Working Secretary,

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India