

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

No.6, Vallabhai Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai 625 002, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Tel: +91-452-2539520 **Cell Phone:** +91-9994368540 **Email:** hrda.india@gmail.com

June 20, 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: Activist, who tried to expose Public Distribution System (PDS) scam, allegedly shot dead by police - 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 over the case of Mr. Ambika Prasad Dubey, a social activist who was allegedly shot dead by the Jabalpur Police during an endeavor to expose a PDS Scam.

Name of the Perpetrators: Town Inspector Ashutosh Chand, Jabalpur

Place of incident: Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

Date of incident: 16th June 2012 (Saturday)

Incident:

Mr. Ambika Prasad Dubey, a 55-year-old social activist, who was trying to draw the attention of police to rampant corruption in the Public Distribution System (PDS) was shot dead by police at a village near Jabalpur.

The incident took place on 16th June 2012 (Saturday) as Mr. Ambika Prasad Dubey, and some locals stopped a vehicle carrying PDS grain in Jhilpani village, near Narsingpur to show the district administration how they were being denied their full quota of grain. The villagers alleged that there was some irregularity in the government grain provided for the poor.

A team of 12 policemen led by a town Inspector Ashutosh Chand reached the spot and tried to get the vehicle released. The villagers raised objections and a shot was fired, reportedly by the police inspector leading the team. Mr Dubey was critically injured and rushed to a nearby hospital by the villagers. But he died on his way.

While police officials were not certain about the exact cause of death, Mr. Dubey's daughter alleges that he was shot from point-blank range. According to some reports, Ambika Prasad Dubey, was shot in his chest and stomach at point-blank range.

A magisterial enquiry has been ordered and the Inspector as well as the 11 policemen have been line-attached [removed from field duties].

Appeal

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

1. Ensure physical and psychological safety and integrity of deceased Mr. Ambika Prasad Dubey's family and other villagers who raised objections against the irregularities in the Government Public Distribution System;

2. Order an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation in this regard and book the perpetrators under the appropriate provisions of law;
3. Initiate a departmental enquiry against the Police perpetrators who shot Mr. Dubey;
4. Render justice and adequate compensation to the victim's family members;
5. 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

Honorary National Working Secretary,

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India