

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

National Coordination Office

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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
Switzerland
Email: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Dear Ma'am,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Andhra Pradesh/
Hyderabad/Guntur District- Dalit RTI activist stabbed to death- 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 brutal killing of Mr. Perumalla Suryanarayana, a Dalit RTI (Right to Information) activist who had filed a number of RTI petitions seeking information regarding the land dealings and other property details of several people in the town of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh.

Name of the perpetrators: Three unknown assailants

Date of incident: Morning of June 22, 2012

Place of incident: Near Tahsildar Office, Town of Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh

Case Narrative:

According to the information received, Mr. Perumalla Suryanarayana (30) a Dalit **RTI activist** was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in broad daylight in Chilakaluripet town of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh on Friday (June 22, 2012).

On June 22, 2012 Suryanarayana was eating breakfast at a road-side restaurant near Tahsildar Office in the town where three men attacked him with knives and stabbed him. He died on the spot while the miscreants fled the spot on motorcycles.

According to Mr. A. Srinivas, Circle Inspector of Chilakaluripet Town, the victim had several enemies as he had filed petitions under the Right to Information Act seeking information about land dealings and other property details of several people in the town.

Being a Dalit, Suryanarayana had also filed cases against several influential people under the Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribes Atrocities (Prevention) Act which also could be one of the reasons for his murder. The police have booked a murder case and are investigating.

Appeal:

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

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the brutal killing of Mr. Mr. Perumalla Suryanarayana with a view to bring those responsible to justice in accordance with national and international standards;
2. Put an end to acts of harassment, threats and the brutal killings faced by all the right to information activists and human rights defenders in India;
4. Ensure that adequate, effective and prompt reparation, including adequate compensation and rehabilitation is granted to the victim's family;

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Henri Tiphagne

Honorary National Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India