

## *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

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Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,  
Ms. 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 - Karnataka/ Mangalore/ Padil: Journalist faces false charges and threats for telecasting a mass attack - 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 series of threats faced Mr. Naveen Soorinje, a journalist working for Kasturi News Channel in Mangalore, Karnataka.

**Date and time of incident:** July 28, 2012 at 6:45 pm

**Place of incident:** Morning Mist Homestay, Padil, Mangalore

**Incident:**

Naveen Soorinje is a journalist working for a Kannada satellite channel Kasturi News 24 x 7 in Mangalore, Karnataka. On July 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 6:45 pm, a resident of Padil, whom Naveen had known for years, called him over phone and informed him about an attack that was planned by a group of 30 assailants near the Morning Mist homestay at Padil on the outskirts of Mangalore.

As soon as Naveen heard the news of the attack, he called the Mangalore Rural Circle Inspector Raveesh Naik (Mob: 9480805330), but he did not respond to his call. So, he requested Mr. Rajesh Rao, TV9 cameraman, to call the police and inform him about aforesaid attack but the Police Inspector did not respond to his call too.

Owing to the same, Naveen Soorinje along with his cameraman rushed to the Morning Mist Homestay, Padil, where he witnessed certain group of men attacking boys and girls who were present at the spot. When Naveen enquired the attackers the reason for which they were attacking them, one among them replied that the Muslim boys had brought along Hindu girls.

At this juncture, the attackers saw the Hindu girls and they started chasing them. The girls sensed danger and started running. One of the girls who jumped from the first floor was chased by 20 assailants and they stripped her naked.

Later on, after 20 minutes, the Police Inspector Ravish Nayak and Police SI Munikanta Neelaswamy reached the spot and were having a friendly conversation with the attackers instead of taking any action against them.

From the next day of the attack, Naveen Soorinje has been receiving series of threatening calls from unknown persons asking for his residential address and the address of his cameraman. The frequency of the calls increased from Monday afternoon (July 30, 2012) when his views on the incident were published in a local daily and on various websites.

Moreover, the police have booked false charges against Naveen in connection with the attack instead of booking cases against the attackers.

**Appeal:**

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

1. To guarantee the professional and personal freedom and personal safety of Naveen Soorinje and to his cameraman;
2. To immediately withdraw all false charges that have been booked against the Journalist Naveen Soorinje;

3. To initiate departmental action against the police perpetrators (Mangalore Rural Circle Police) under the appropriate provisions of law for registering false charges against the Journalist and for not taking legal action against the attackers;
4. To 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

**Addresses:**

**1. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, Chairperson,**

National Human Rights Commission of India, Faridkot House,  
Copernicus Marg, New Delhi 110001,  
Fax: +91 11 2334 0016, Fax No. 23384863  
Email: covdnhrc@nic.in, ionhrc@nic.in, jrlawnhrc@hub.nic.in

**2. 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

**3. Mr. Shri Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India,**

Prime Minister's Office, Room number 152, South Block,  
New Delhi, Fax: + 91 11 23016857;  
Email: manmo@sansad.in

**4. Shri Jagadish Shettar,  
Chief Minister, Karnataka**

Email: cm@kar.nic.in

**5. Karnataka State Human Rights Commission**

4th Floor, 5th Phase, Multi Storeyed Buildings  
Bangalore-560001, Karnataka  
Email: kshrc2007@gmail.com

**6. OMCT International Secretariat**

PO Box 21  
8, rue du Vieux-Billard  
1211 Geneva 8  
Switzerland  
Phone: + 41 22 809 4939  
Fax: + 41 22 809 4929  
E-mail: omct@omct.org

**7. Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders**

Head Office, Second Floor, Grattan House, Temple Road, Blackrock,  
Co Dublin, Ireland, Tel: +353 (0)1 212 3750, Fax: +353 (0)1 212 1001  
E-mail: info@frontlinedefenders.org, cairionarice@frontlinedefenders.org

**8. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development**

Baan Vichien, Apartment 3B,  
220 Sukhumvit 49/12 Klongton Nua, Wattana,  
Bangkok, 10110, Thailand  
Email: hrd@forum-asia.org  
yap@forum-asia.org

**9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

United Nations Office at Geneva,  
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Email: Hrd-ra@ohchr.org