

**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](mailto:hrda.india@gmail.com)**

November 22, 2012

**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](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)

Dear Ma'am,

**Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action - India/Karnataka-Vijayapura : Physical Assault over RTI activist B.Ramakrishnappa for his attempts to expose scams in government office-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 situation of B Ramakrishnappa, a Human Rights Monitor working in Vijayapura, Bangalore, Karnataka, who was physically assaulted.

**Name of the perpetrators:** two unknown men

**Date and time of incident:** November 16, 2012

**Place of incident:** Vijayapura, Bangalore, Karnataka

**About the activists:**

Mr. Ramakrishnappa (50) is a farmer by profession but he became an RTI (Right to Information Act) activist in 2009 and he had been exposing scams in government offices. He had obtained documents about alleged corruption at Godlu Muddenahalli Gram Panchayat (the local government) and had released them to media recently.

**Incident:**

According to the information received, two masked men attacked Mr. Ramakrishnappa with clubs in Vijayapura in Karnataka. He sustained severe injuries and has been admitted to the government hospital. The attackers came on a motorcycle and attacked him at around 8:30 am.

It is evident that the local government, with the aid of local criminals, is attempting to intimidate Mr. Ramakrishnappa to frustrate his human rights work in that area.

**Appeal:**

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

1. To ensure both physical and psychological safety and integrity of the affected social activist Mr. Ramakrishnappa.
2. To take the complaints of Mr. Ramakrishnappa with all sincerity and register FIR.
3. To investigate the incident by an efficient and impartial agency.
4. To locate, arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of the assault against Mr. Ramakrishnappa for their actions immediately.
5. To take all necessary steps to guarantee the professional and personal freedom of social activist Mr. Ramakrishnappa.

6. 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.
7. To guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in India are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

*Henri Tiphagne*

Honorary National Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India