

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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26 September 2013

The Chairperson
National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi – 110 023.
Fax: 011-24651329
E-Mail: covdnhrc@nic.in, ionhrc@nic.in, jrlawnhrc@hub.nic.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Odisha: Arbitrary arrest and detention of journalist and human rights defender Sankar Das- 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 arbitrary arrest and detention of Mr. Sankar Das a well-known reporter and human rights defender of Jajpur District in Odisha.

Source of Information on the Incident:

The Regional Coordinator of HRDA for the Eastern Region

About the Human Rights Defender under attack:

Mr. Sankar Das, aged about 45 years, is a resident of village Gada Madhupur in Jenapur Police limits in Jajpur District. He is a journalist associated with local weekly publications like 'Swadhikar', 'EPA weekly' and Odia dailies 'Pragatibadi' and 'Amarikhata'.

He is also associated with a social organization 'Save Line', and works for women empowerment, agricultural and other income generation activities since 2000.

He has also been politically active for the past 20 years in student and youth movements

The Perpetrators:

Police personnel of Jenapur Police Station

Date of Incident:

September 26, 2013

Time of Incident:

6.00 AM

Place of Incident:

The Human Rights Defender's Residence in village Gada Madhupur in Jenapur Police limits in Jajpur District of Odisha.

The Jenapur Police Station

Incident

According to the information received, this morning, i.e. on 26 September, at around 6.00 AM, the local police i.e. personnel from the Jenapur Police Station arrested Sankar Das from his residence in village Gada Madhupur in Jenapur Police limits in Jajpur District of Odisha. He is now being detained in Jenapur Police Station although no complaint has been lodged in his name. The human rights defender fears that the reason behind this detention political rivalry. Also there is apprehension of the police framing false case against him.

Appeal

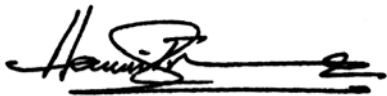
We, therefore, urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that:

- The human rights defender is released immediately without any charges

- A thorough, impartial and immediate investigation into the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defender Sankar Das with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards is carried out
- All necessary measures are taken to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Mr. Sankar Das and members of his family
- 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 in all circumstances.
- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by India is guaranteed

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a horizontal line underneath.

Henri Tiphagne

Honorary Working Secretary

Human Rights Defenders Alert - India