



Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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Shri A. K. Parashar

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Joint Registrar
National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi – 110 023
Email: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Maharashtra: CPI Leader and Anti-Toll Campaigner and wife shot and critically wounded by unidentified assailants- Reg

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a Forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavors 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 attempt on the life of Mr. Govind Pansare, CPI (Communist Party of India) Leader and Anti-Toll Campaigner and his wife by unknown assailants on the 16th of February, 2015 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Coordinator of HRDA for the South of India
- Mr. Pradip More of Dalit Foundation
- Media Reports

The Human Rights Defender:

Mr. Govind Pansare, aged 82 years is a veteran left leader, rationalist and an anti-toll campaigner. Mr Pansare has fought for years against the state government's decision to charge citizens for road development.

The Perpetrators:

1. Unknown assailants who came on bikes

Date of Incident:

16th of February, 2015 at about 8.00 a.m.

Place of Incident:

Near the home of the Human Rights Defender in Kolhapur, in Maharashtra, a western Indian state

Incident detail:

According to sources, on the morning of the 16th of February, 2015 when the human rights defender and veteran Left leader Mr. Govind Pansare was taking a morning walk with his wife, unidentified men who came on motorbikes shot at them. Mr. Pansare received three gunshot injuries in the neck, armpit and on the right leg near the knee. His wife Uma Pansare sustained a fracture in the skull. The condition of Pansare and his wife are critical and they have undergone surgeries to remove the bullets.

The police have reported that five persons have been detained "on ground of suspicion" in this connection. Fellow activists in the region look upon this dastardly act as an act by non-secular forces to suppress progressive voices and have been taking out widespread protests to condemn the same.

Appeal :

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that the Superintendent of Police for Kolhapur

- Orders an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned events and apprehend the assailants and those functioning behind them.

- Along with local district officials guarantees in all circumstances the physical and psychological safety and security of Mr. Govind Pansare and his wife who are under intensive care in the hospital
- Ensures provision of reparation and compensation to Mr. Pansare and his wife for the physical and psychological sufferings they underwent because of the attack on them
- Along with local district officials puts an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders in general to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities without any hindrances;
- Conforms with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, especially:
 - Article 1, which states that “everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels”
 - Article 12.2, which provides that “the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration”;
- More generally, ensures in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments ratified by India is strictly adhered to in the state of Maharashtra.

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne

Honorary National Working Secretary