



## Human Rights Defenders Alert - India

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**February 19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Odisha: Death threats  
issued to Dalit Rights Activist - 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 life threats issued to Mr. Abhimanyu Mallik a Dalit right activist and human rights defender of Majurai Village under Sailo Govindpur Police limits in the Cuttack district of Odisha on the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month.

### **Source of Information on the Incident:**

The Coordinator of Human Rights Defenders Alert - India for the East of India

### **The Human Rights Defenders:**

Mr. Abhimanyu Mallik, aged about 39 years, S/o Dusashan Mallik is a resident of Majurai Village under Sailo Govindpur Polce limits in the Cuttack district of Odisha.

He is the president of a Dalit organization named as “YUBA DALIT SANGHA, ODISHA”. The organization has been working for the realization of Dalit rights in the region for the last six years.

**The Perpetrators:**

1. Mr. Pramod Mallik, Member of Legislative Assembly, Niali constituency Odisha.
2. Mr. Jugal Kishore Nayak, Officer in Charge, Sailo Govindpur Police Station

**Date of Incident:**

9<sup>th</sup> of February, 2015

**Place of Incident:**

In the village of the Human Rights Defender i.e., Majurai under Sailo Govindpur Police limits in the Cuttack District of Odisha, an eastern Indian state.

**Incident detail:**

According to the source, recently the RD issued an order for construction of a village road to connect to the main road for which the local Block Development Officer (BDO) had organized two meetings. Each time other government officials purposefully disrupted the meeting with the intention of getting the work done by the VLW (Village Level Worker). Determined to resolve the issue, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2015, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the villagers decided to construct the road themselves by taking the work order in the name of Mr. Pratap Bhoi. Though a resolution to this effect was passed and a copy of the same was taken by the BDO to his office, after a week the BDO refused to give the work order to the villagers. Protesting this, villagers under the banner of “YUBA DALIT SANGHA, ODISHA” sat on a demonstration before the Block office. On the 9<sup>th</sup> day the local Tahasildar came to the place and tried to disperse the villagers saying that they were poor Dalit men without enough money to carry out the work and it would be wise to let the work be done by the local MLA’s supporters but the villagers did not agree to this and continued with their demonstration. On the same evening the Abhimanyu Mallik got a phone call from a caller with an unknown number, who abused him in vulgar language and threatened to kill him. The next day Mallik went to the local police

station and filed a complaint before the OIC. The First Information Report was registered but the police have not taken any action against the perpetrators so far. Now Mallik is staying away from his village out of fear.

**Appeal :**

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

- Orders an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned events of threats issued to the human rights defender and take due action against the accused.
- Along with local district officials guarantees in all circumstances the physical and psychological safety and security of Mr. Abhimanyu Mallik as and he is still at risk
- Conducts an inquiry into the involvement of the MLA and his supporters in the construction of the village road and take due action
- 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 Odisha.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Henri Tiphagne**

Honorary National Working Secretary