



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

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Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Delhi: Shooting of anti-corruption activist Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma by unknown assailants – Regarding

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 shooting of anti-corruption activist Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma on the 24th of April 2015 in West Delhi by unknown assailants at the behest of corrupt policemen who were exposed by Sharma.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Regional Coordinator of HRDA for the North of India
- Media Reports

The Human Rights Defender:

Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma, a 41 years old resident of Vishwas Park, Uttam Nagar, South West Delhi is a known anti-corruption activist. He has conducted several sting operations against allegedly corrupt policemen of the Delhi police in the last 10 years. He is in possession of video recordings of more than 400 policemen from the crime branch, PCR van, the excise department and local police stations of Delhi,

extorting money. He has filed 7 writ petitions in the Delhi High Court on the basis of his sting operations. At least 400 policemen face suspension or other criminal charges as a result of his cases. Sharma has helped the Anti-Corruption Branch in identifying many corrupt policemen in Delhi through his sting operations conducted in the last few years.

The Perpetrators:

Unknown Assailants hired allegedly by Mr. Pawan Rathi, the Chairperson of Municipal Corruption of Delhi, Nazafgarh Zone Delhi

Date of Incident:

24th of April, 2015 at about 10.45 PM

Place of Incident:

Vishwas Park, Police Station Dabri, South West Delhi district, New Delhi

Incident detail:

According to the sources, on the 24th of April 2015 at about 10.30 PM when Chetan Prakash Sharma was walking in front of his house after dinner, his dog ran into a lane of the colony. When Chetan Prakash Sharma was returning from there, he saw a motorbike coming towards him. There were two people on the bike. The bikers stopped at a distance of 5 feet from him and fired 4 to 5 shots. Chetan heard the sound of two shots. One shot hit his hand and crossed his bones. His German Shepherd dog instantly jumped on the attackers to save him. The dog also sustained at least three bullets in the incident, dying on the spot. Chetan has a Personal Security Officer (PSO) provided by the police who was at a distance of 30 feet from him. He called and ran towards his PSO. Mr. Chetan Sharma was bleeding profusely owing to the injury he sustained because of the shooting. He was rushed to Deen Dayal Hospital, Delhi for treatment.

Background to the incident:

Mr. Chetam Prakash Sharma recently filed an RTI application with the Municipal Corruption of Delhi (MCD), Nazafgarh Zone, Delhi, to get information on the sanctioning of funds for pensioners. The Councillor of the Municipal Corporation has the authority to sanction pension under the scheme to 7000 people under his or her zone and according to Mr. Sharma, many rich people have been given this pension although they are not eligible. Chetan Prakash Sharma has expressed suspicion over some people in his statement to the police. Chetan Prakash Sharma suspects the hand of Mr. Pawan Rathi, the Chairperson of Municipal Corruption of Delhi, Nazafgarh Zone Delhi, behind the attack.

Appeal :

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that the Superintendent of Police and the District Collector and District Magistrate of South West Delhi

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned events of the shooting of Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma.
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators for the shooting of Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma and using all provisions of law, ensure that the defender is not attacked in future.
- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma, who is still under risk of further attacks from the perpetrators.
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the defender for the physical psychological sufferings he underwent and medical expenses he incurred because of the shooting and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs such as Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma;
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment against all human rights defenders like Mr. Chetan Prakash Sharma in New Delhi to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances;
- Takes steps to conform to 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”;

- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the SHRC in Delhi to be established and then to also take necessary steps to establish a state focal point for HRDs in order that HRDs in the have a new protection mechanism in their own state.
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the SHRC in Delhi to be established and then to convene a meetings of all state human rights institutions in the state [women, minorities, right to information, disability, children etc] to ensure that a co-ordinated strategy is developed within New Delhi for the protection of the rights of human rights defenders.
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the State Government of Delhi in collaboration with the NHRC Focal Point on HRDs to provide sensitization training to law enforcement and security forces on the role and activities of human rights defenders as a matter of priority, with technical advice and assistance from relevant United Nations entities, NGOs and other partners.
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the Government of New Delhi to publicly acknowledge the importance and legitimacy of the work of human rights defenders, i.e. anyone who, “individually and in association with others, ... promote[s] and ... strive[s] for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels” (Art.1 of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders).
- 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.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

Honorary National Working Secretary