



## Human Rights Defenders Alert – India

National Coordination Office

No. 6 Vallabai Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai-625002, Tamil Nadu, INDIA

Tel: +91-9994368540 Email: [hrda.india@gmail.com](mailto:hrda.india@gmail.com)

---

**October 16, 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)

**Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Rajasthan: Brutal assault, physical abuse and ill-treatment of around 150 girl students and women human rights defenders from classes 10 and 11 of the government senior secondary school of Chauru village in Uniara tehsil of Tonk district of Rajasthan by the Rajasthan police of Aligarh police station - Regarding**

Dear Sir,

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 brutal assault with *lathis*, physical abuse and ill-treatment of around 200 girl students and women human rights defenders from classes 10 and 11 of the government senior secondary school of Chauru village, Uniara tehsil in Tonk district of Rajasthan by the Rajasthan police of Aligarh police station. Girl students were protesting against the authorities' neglect in appointing teachers in their school at the national highway NH 116 outside the school premises. Eight girls were badly injured after police used indiscriminate lathicharge to remove them from the highway. According to local news reports, several girls had to jump from a bridge on the highway to avoid being hit by police

batons. Rajasthan police action is in clear violation of the Right to Education Act 2009 which makes providing education a fundamental duty of every state and states clearly that no child may face any kind of corporal punishment.

**Status of Human Rights Defenders:**

The defenders are mostly girl students of 14 to 16 years of age from Government Senior Secondary School at Chauru village, Uniara tehsil in Tonk district of Rajasthan.

**Date of incident:**

29 September 2015.

**Place of incident:**

Aligarh road, tehsil Uniara, district Tonk, Rajasthan.

**Source of Information on the Incident:**

Coordinator of HRDA for the North of India.

Communication with social activists and human rights defenders.

**The Perpetrators:**

Mr Amar Singh Bhati, Station House officer of Aligarh Police station, district Tonk, Rajasthan and

Three other Rajasthan Police personnel from Aligarh Police Station, Tonk district, Rajasthan.

**Incident detail:**

According to sources, on 29 September, around 150 young school girls of government Senior Secondary School, Uniara tehsil district Tonk, Rajasthan were participating in a peaceful protest demonstration at the Aligarh-Tonk-Rajasthan road national highway 116 to demand availability of teachers in their school by the district administration. The school was upgraded to the level of senior secondary from 2015 session and the students were demanding early appointment of teachers. The school has 21 posts for teachers in total but only seven teachers have been appointed and out of the seven, two teachers have been transferred out of the school in early September 2015.

The girls were for only 15 minutes into the peaceful road jam when four Rajasthan Police personnel lathi-charged to remove them from the road. Girls student were beaten indiscriminately without any warning or even enquiring why they were protesting. According to the sources, there were no women police officers present at the time. The police hit the girls harshly with batons causing them injuries on legs, thighs, arms and chest. According to local news reports, several girls had to jump from a bridge on the highway to avoid being hit by police batons. Some of the girls fell unconscious, while others ran to the village. According to the girls, the police officer was heavily drunk and even tried to abuse them by pulling their clothes. Report of a fact finding committee from civil rights groups accused the police of sexual harassment of the girls during the lathi charge and use of abusive language.

The girls were immediately rushed to the nearby Tonk dispensary where they were given medical treatment. According to the doctors who were treating them, at least three girls survived with serious injuries to their liver and kidney and tissue rupture on the limbs along with heavy swelling. All the girls were discharged by 2 October 2015 from the hospital.

Families of the girls and social activists have demanded that FIR to be lodged against Mr Amar Singh Bhati and three other police personnel involved in the lathi charge but the police have taken no action so far. On the contrary the police have lodged two separate complaints against the girls and their teachers for provoking them to protest.

***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 Tonk district:

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of brutal assault on 150 young school girls of government Senior Secondary School, Uniara tehsil, district Tonk and in particular human rights violations arising from the indiscriminate use of force completely contrary to established national and international standards;

- Take immediate action on the perpetrators in this case Station House officer and three other police personnel from Aligarh Police station, district Tonk, Rajasthan and using all provisions of law to ensure that the young women defenders are not harassed with false cases in future;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the women human rights defenders for the physical and psychological sufferings they have undergone and also ensure at the cost of state the medical expenses they incurred because of the injuries and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs;
- Take steps to ensure the provisions contained in Right to Education Act 2009 which not only makes providing education a fundamental duty of every state, but also prohibits “physical punishment” and “mental harassment” under Section 17(1) and makes it a punishable offence under Section 17(2). Corporal punishment also includes all forms of sexual offences as per the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012;
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment against all human rights defenders in the state of Rajasthan 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 Rajasthan to take necessary steps to establish a state focal point for HRDs in order that HRDs have a new protection mechanism in their own state;
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the SHRC in Rajasthan to convene a meeting 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 Rajasthan for the protection of the rights of human rights defenders;
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the State Government of Rajasthan 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 Rajasthan 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 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments ratified by India is strictly adhered to in the state of Rajasthan.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



**(Henri Tiphagne)**

Honorary National Working Secretary