



**Human Rights Defenders Alert - India**

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**19 February, 2015**

**Shri A. K. Parashar,**

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders,

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 - Immediate Urgent Appeal for Action – Chhattisgarh:  
Seeking Hon'ble National Human Rights Commission's immediate inter-  
vention in respect to illegal and forceful eviction of women human rights  
defender and journalist Malini Subramaniam against her wishes from  
her house in Jagdalpur town, Chhattisgarh - Regarding.***

**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 well known journalist and human rights defender, Ms. Malini Subramaniam who has been illegally and forcefully evicted from her house and it is believed the move has been initiated by Samajik Ekta Manch, a Jagdalpur based forum supported by the Chhattisgarh Police in order to counter Naxal influence and activities in Bastar region.

HRDA has been informed about the forceful eviction of Ms. Malini took place on the night of 18 February, 2016 . Before her eviction, her maid Ms.Prachi was summoned to the police station twice for interrogation. She was kept in the police station for hours, despite the clear provisions of the law that women witnesses can only be examined at their place of residence, she was taken away to police station late at night for questioning before Malini's eviction. Ms. Malini's landlord who lives in Raipur was also summoned to the police station for questioning. Ms. Malini's husband Mr. Ashim was also called to the police station and was kept there for many hours on the pretext of questioning.

Ms. Malini Subramaniam is a journalist and regular contributor of the online news web portal Scroll.in based in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. She was formerly associated with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Chhattisgarh. She has worked in the development sector for almost two decades and has travelled widely in the conflict affected areas as the head of the ICRC in Chhattisgarh. After ICRC closed down its operations in 2013, Ms. Malini Subramaniam decided to stay back in Jagdalpur to work among the poor tribals. Later she started reporting from the area and was able to bring to light stories that were otherwise not being covered. In the last one year she has extensively reported on issues of adivasis, enforced displacement, mass sexual violence as well as other human rights violations by the security forces in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Her stories for Scroll.in have often been the first detailed accounts of the incidents. Last December, Ms. Malini Subramaniam reported a story of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh where the police claimed to have wrested a major victory in the form of the surrenders of 26 Maoists. Police claims were later found misleading as the local residents revealed that the surrenders were forced and fake and the men were not actually Maoists but innocent villagers.

In this regard we would like to bring it to notice of the Hon'ble Commission an Urgent Appeal sent by HRDA - India on threats being issued to Ms.Malini on 09, February 2016 and the compliant number received by us - 108/33/1/2016.

**Appeal:**

- HRDA - India very strongly urges the Hon'ble National Human Rights Commission to immediately intervene in the matter and communicate with the Inspector General of Police - Bastar Range, Superintendent of Police, - Bastar, District Magistrate - Bastar asking them to prevent the local police officers engaging in harassment of women human rights defender and journalist Ms. Malini through her landlord and forcibly evicting her last night.
- We also request that the Hon'ble Commission to immediately and urgently send the NHRC Investigation Team to conduct an impartial and transparent investigation on the matter.
- We also humbly urge the Hon'ble Commission to look into the case and thereafter undertake urgent efforts to restore the status quo ante in terms of Ms.Malini's residence as on 18, February 2016 and if required use the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 to protect law and order.
- We also believe that her forced eviction in the middle of the night after threatening her landlord for two days is an act of illegality and a violation of her fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India.
- We also urge the Hon'ble Commission to ensure that Ms.Malini and her family are provided immediate and adequate police protection round the clock with inclusion of women police personnel in the team.
- We also request you to kindly ensure protection for her lawyer as she has already been threatened that if she goes to the court on this matter she along with her lawyer. will face dire consequences.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is underlined with a double horizontal line.

*(Henri Tiphagne)*

Honorary National Working Secretary