



Human Rights Defenders Alert – India

National Coordination Office

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18th May, 2016

To

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 – Jharkhand - Mr. Indradev Yadav: Brutal murder of a journalist and human rights defender Mr. Indradev Yadav, also known as Akhilesh Pratap, local correspondent for ‘Taaza TV’, a Hindi news channel in Chatra town of Chatra district of Jharkhand - 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 writing to express our deep concern over journalist and human rights defender Mr. Indradev Yadav, also known as Akhilesh Pratap, local correspondent for ‘Taaza TV’, a Hindi news channel in Chatra town of Chatra district of Jharkhand who was shot dead by unidentified persons near his house under Sadar police station area. The journalist was targeted allegedly for his critical reporting on corruption.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Media reports

Status of the Human Rights Defender:

Mr. Indradev Yadav, also known as Akhilesh Pratap, aged 35, belonged to Barachatti village of district Gaya in Bihar. He was Chatra district correspondent for Taaza TV, a Hindi news channel based in Kolkata. Mr. Indradev Yadav had settled down in Jharkhand and was

currently residing in Nagma locality in Chatra town. He had been associated with different print media organisations for the last 10 years. The journalist and defender, Mr. Indradev Yadav, was a fearless journalist and known for his critical reporting on corruption. He had reported and exposed many cases of corruption in the implementation of government programmes and schemes in the region.

The Perpetrators:

Unidentified assailants

Date of Incident:

May 12, 2016

Place of Incident:

Near Devaria Panchayat secretariat on Chatra bypass under Sadar police station area of Chatra district, Jharkhand

Incident detail:

According to sources, on May 12, 2016, Mr. Indradev Yadav correspondent of Taza TV, came back to his house after collecting the news in the evening. He lived in the Sadar market area in Chatra town. He received a phone call inviting him to come to meet someone. Mr. Indradev Yadav went out to meet the caller. When he reached a point near his house at Devaria Panchayat secretariat on Chatra bypass, unidentified assailants opened indiscriminate fire on him. The assailants fired at least five shots at Mr. Indradev Yadav, two of which hit him, killing him immediately. The incident took place around 9 pm. The assailants then fled the spot, taking advantage of the darkness. Bullet casings, a broken knife and Indradev's motorcycle were found at the crime spot by the police. According to the police, "there were no eyewitnesses of the shootout who can divulge information about the incident or the number of assailants involved". According to the sources, journalist Mr. Indradev Yadav was working on a news report exposing rampant corruption involved in financial management of the government programmes related to digging and building of ponds for public use in the villages. Mr. Indradev Yadav is survived by his wife and two children.

Appeal:

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

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned events of the brutal killing of journalist and human rights defender Mr. Indradev Yadav;
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators for the brutal murder of journalist and human rights defender Mr. Indradev Yadav by arresting all of them and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs;
- Along with local district officials guarantee in all circumstances due compensation to the family of the deceased HRD and give this assurance to the NHRC of India in writing immediately and urgently;
- Put an end to all acts of attack, harassment and killing of all writers, journalists and human rights defenders in the state of Jharkhand to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as writers, journalists and defenders of human rights without any hindrances;
- Ensure fundamental rights of free speech and association guaranteed by Article 19 and right to life and personal liberty granted by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution;
- 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 Jharkhand to also take necessary steps to establish a state focal point for HRDs in order to ensure that HRDs have a new protection mechanism in their own state;

- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the NHRC to convene a meeting of all state human rights institutions in the state [the SHRC, the SCW, the SCPCR, the SCM, the SIC, State Commissioner for PWDs, etc.] to ensure that a coordinated strategy is developed within the State of Jharkhand for the protection of the rights of human rights defenders;
- Recommend urgently and speedily during the pendency of this complaint, the Jharkhand SHRC, State Government of Jharkhand 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 Jharkhand 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 Jharkhand.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

Honorary National Working Secretary