



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

No.32, Besant Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai - 625 002, Tamil Nadu, India.  
P: +91-452-2531874 & 2539520 Fax: +91-452- 2531874 Mobile: 99943-68540  
E.mail: [hrda.india@gmail.com](mailto:hrda.india@gmail.com) Web: [www.hrdaindia.org](http://www.hrdaindia.org)

**June 7, 2017**

To,  
**Shri Srinivasa Kammath**  
National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Deputy 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 – Gujarat: Gujarat Police illegally detained human rights defenders including hundreds of supporters from participating in a rally organised by Narmada Bachao Andolan – Regarding***

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

Human Rights Defenders 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 illegal detention of prominent social activists and human rights defenders including hundreds of supporters who were participating in a rally organised by Narmada Bachao Andolan

**Source of Information on the Incident:**

Media Reports  
Alerts on Social Media  
National Coordinator of HRDA

**Status of the Human Rights Defenders:**

1. Medha Patkar
2. Prafulla Samantara
3. Sowmya Dutta
4. Dr. Sunilam
5. Jasbir Singh
6. Nita Mahadev
7. Others; hundreds of supporters

Narmada Bachao Andolan is social movement which mainly works for the rights of people displaced due to development projects across Narmada River affecting people in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

**The Perpetrators:**

Gujarat Police

**Date of Incident:**

June 06, 2017.

**Place of Incident:**

Kavta check-post in Chhota Udaipur district, Gujarat.

**Incident detail:**

Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) is organising a rally in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra protesting against the failure of the governments to develop the rehabilitation sites across the Narmada River.

On the third day of the rally, i.e. June 7, 2017, in the morning hours, the participants of the rally were stopped by Gujarat Police at a check post in Kavta village of Chhota Udaipur district of Gujarat and hundreds of them were detained illegally and were not allowed to proceed with their rally to Maharashtra.

It is important to note that the police personnel who stopped them did not have any written order for detaining the participants of the rally.

Around 2 PM, Gujarat Police arrested well known social activists Medha Patkar, Prafulla Samantara, Dr. Sunilam, Aradhna Bhargava, Madhuresh Kumar, Himshi Singh, supporters from Gujarat and approximately 60 more people at Gujarat Border in Chhota Udaipur district.

Gujarat Police and administration have prima-facie violated Article 19 (1)(b) of the Indian Constitution. It has been held that the right to hold a meeting or a demonstration involves the Constitutional right of every citizen-of assembly under Article 19(l)(b), of expression under Article 19 (l)(a), and of free movement throughout the territory of India under Article 19 (l)(d).

**Appeal:**

We, therefore urge you to **immediately** take necessary steps to ensure that;

- The human rights defenders should be immediately let free and permitted to continue their rally without any hindrance from the police or local administration.
- Take necessary and strict action on the police personnel who illegally detained the human rights defenders from carrying out their work.

Yours sincerely,



**Henri Tiphagne**  
**National Working Secretary**