



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 Web: www.hrdaindia.org

January 30, 2018

To

Mr. 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

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Killing of two protestors and bullet injuries to nine other protestors by Assam Police in Maibong, Dima Hasao district, Assam - Regarding

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India (HRDA) 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 writing to express our grave concern over lathi charge, using tear gas, indiscriminate and unprovoked firing on protesters, leading to killing of two protesters and bullet injuries to nine protesters by Assam police at Maibong, Dima Hasao district of Assam.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Media Reports
- Coordinator for North East of India – HRDA

Place of Incident:

Maibong Railway Station, Dima Hasao District, Assam

Perpetrators:

- Deputy Commissioner of Dima Hasao District

- Superintendent of Police of Dima Hasao District
- Personnel of Assam Police

Details of the Incident

On January 25, 2018, several organisations including All Dimasa Students' Union, Jdike Naiso Hosom, Dimasa Apex Body, Dimasa Students' Union and Dimasa Mothers' Association called upon a 12-hour bandh (shutdown) to protest against the remarks made by a member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Mr. Jagdamba Mall. The remark was about the inclusion of Dima Hasao district in the Greater Nagalim in the draft Naga accord between Natinal Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and the Government of India (Gol). The bandh started at 5 AM in the morning and at Maibong the protesters blocked and stopped the Silchar bound passenger train from Guwahati. At 2.30 PM on the order of the Deputy Commissioner, the police started to attack the protestors with *lathis* and fired indiscriminately on the protesters at their chest and legs without prior intimation or warning. Due to the police firing, two protestors Mithun Dibragede and Prabanta Hakmosa died and nine of them were severely wounded with bullet injuries. The police fired directly on the chest, legs of the protesters that caused two deaths and severe injury of nine protesters.

Background of the incident:

On January 19, 2018, the local media outlets carried a statement of RSS member and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supporter Jagdamba Mall on inclusion of Dima Hasao district in Greater Nagalim in the Naga Accord between rebel group NSCN-IM and Gol. On January 20, 2018, several organisations including All Dimasa Students' Union, Jdike Naiso Hosom, a Dimasa Apex Body, Dimasa Students' Union and Dimasa Mothers' Association called for a meeting to discuss the matter. On January 21, 2018, they rallied to the Deputy Commissioner Office at Haflong and demanded apology from the RSS member for his remark and asked clarification from government on the matter by January 24, 2018. It was also mentioned that if the government failed to do so, they would go for calling peaceful bandh on January 25, 2018. However, the Deputy Commissioner did not meet with the members of the different organisations of Dima Hasao and also did not provide clarification on the statement of the RSS

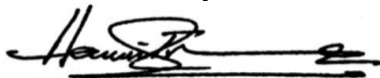
member. Hence, these organisations called 12 hour bandh to protest against the remark of RSS member Jagdamba Mall on inclusion of Dima Hasao district in the Greater Nagalim in the draft Naga Accord between NSCN (IM) and central government.

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of unprovoked and indiscriminate firing on peaceful protestors;
- While enquiring into this incident of excessive use of force on peaceful protestors, resulting in death of innocent farmers, like your counterparts in Asia, hold a public hearing in Dima Hasao and allow protestors to place their testimonies and statements before the NHRC
- Departmental action and prosecution of perpetrators found responsible for ordering this unprovoked police firing
- Form an independent committee to draft the guidelines for police and security forces to follow to facilitate peaceful protests and this to be on lines with the practical recommendations submitted by the former UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,
Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary

Copies to:

Assam State Human Rights Commission

Gauhati Medical College Road,
Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781005
Assam.

Email: secy-ahrc@nic.in

Director General of Police, Assam

Uluvar, Guwahati-781007, Assam

Email: dgp@assampolice.gov.in

Mr. Michel Forst

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,

c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson

United Nations Office at Geneva

CH 1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Email: urgent-action@ohchr.org defenders@ohchr.org hrd-ra@ohchr.org

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Ms. Agnes Callamard

Email: eje@ohchr.org

**Special Rapporteur on the rights to
freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 10

Switzerland

Fax: + 41 22 917 9006

Email: freeassembly@ohchr.org

Ms. Christine Chung

Human Rights Officer- Asia Pacific Section

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Email: cchung@ohchr.org

**Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights
Defenders**

Second Floor Grattan House

Temple Road , Blackrock

Co. Dublin

Ireland

Email : info@frontlinedefenders.org [sayeed@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:sayed@frontlinedefenders.org)
asia@frontlinedefenders.org

Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

8 rue du Vieux Billard - 1211 Geneva 8 – Switzerland

Email: dr@omct.org

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

66/2, Pan Road, Silom Bang Rak,

Bangkok, 10500 Thailand.

Email: hrd@forum-asia.org

OMCT International Secretariat

PO Box 21
8, rue du Vieux-Billard
1211 Geneva 8
Switzerland
E-mail: omct@omct.org

Human Rights Watch

350, Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor,
New York
Email: gangulm@hrw.org bajorij@hrw.org

Amnesty International India

Ground Floor, # 235, 13th cross,
Indira Nagar II Stage,
Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560 038.
Email: aakar.patel@amnesty.co.in

CIVICUS: World Alliance for World Participation

Johannesburg
South Africa
Email: Mandeep.Tiwana@civicus.org tor.hodenfield@civicus.org
cathal.gilbert@civicus.org dominic.perera@civicus.org

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF)

P.O. Box 6890 St. Olavs plass, N-0130 Oslo, Norway
Email: liv.kvanvig@nhrf.no