



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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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 – Physical attack on peaceful protesters from Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union in New Delhi - 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 the illegal detention and physical assault in illegal custody of Ms. Simone Zoya Khan, the Vice-President of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) in New Delhi.

Status of Human Rights Defender:

Ms. Simone Zoya Khan, the Vice-President of JNUSU.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Communication from students of Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Media Reports
- National Coordinator of HRDA

Date of Incident:

January 22, 2017

Perpetrators:

- Personnel of Tughlak Road Police Station in New Delhi

Details of the Incident

The JNUSU had called for a peaceful protest on January 22, 2017, near Jammu and Kashmir Bhaan in New Delhi against the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl from the state of Jammu & Kashmir this month. A group of students were peacefully registering their protest against this crime and called for swift action by the Jammu & Kashmir government. Though the students were assembled and protesting peacefully, the Delhi police personnel started dispersing the students from that place and used *lathis* to attack them.

Following it, the students were detained and taken to Tughlak Road Police Station. There, the JNUSU Vice-President Ms. Simone Zoya Khan was separated from other students who were detained and was taken inside a room and was beaten up and punched on the face by a woman constable of Delhi Police in Tughlak Road Police station.

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 attack on Ms. Simone Zoya Khan;
- Following an independent investigation, use all powers as per the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993 to ensure that the accused police personnel are held accountable to deny right to peacefully protest and followed by custodial harassment of Simone Zoya Khan;

- Ensure that in all situations the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is protected especially that of student organisations who are under attack by the police personnel at several instances;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the defender for the psychological sufferings she has undergone because of the threats and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary

Copies to:

Mr. Michel Forst

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,
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Ms. Christine Chung

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

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Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

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The Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF)

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