



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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March 12, 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 – Attack on peaceful student protesters by police in Assam - 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 writing to express our grave concern over the brutal lath charge over the peaceful student protesters by Assam police.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Coordinator of HRDA for the North East of India
- Media Reports

The Perpetrators:

Assam police

Date of Incident:

February 28, 2018

Place of Incident:

Guwahati Medical College Hospital, Assam.

Details of the Incident:

Since February 26, 2018 Homeopathy Students and doctors of Dispur Government Hospital in Assam were staging a protest i to draw the attention of Government for their long-standing demands related to employment opportunities for homeopathic doctors, an enhanced stipend to internee doctors at par with other systems of medicine in Assam, quality education in Homeopathic Medical colleges of Assam and development of infrastructure. The protest was jointly organized by All Assam Homeopathic Doctors Association, All Assam Homeopathic Junior Doctor's Association, All Assam Homeopathic Medical College Students Union and the students of the three Homeopathic Medical colleges of Assam. The protest escalated when the Health Minister Hlmanta Bishwa Sharma made a statement in the media on February 27, 2018 that the demands of the doctors and students will be fulfilled when patients demand homeopathy treatment. He told the media that patients demand allopathic treatment not homeopathy. This statement of the health minister aroused anger amongst the doctors and medical practitioners. When police asked them to leave the venue on February 28, 2018 claiming that protest period got over, the agitated students and doctors refused to leave the place. Suddenly the police resorted to lathi charge to disperse them and attacked them with sticks. Several students were injured and rushed to hospitals for treatment while others have been detained at Basitha 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 brutal attack on the students and doctors who were exercising the right to peaceful assembly and protest
- Ensure that strict action is taken against the police personnel who had attacked the doctors and students and also ensure that no criminal charges are filed against them for their peaceful protest

- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the students and doctors 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:

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