



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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April 04, 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 – Bihar – Murder of two journalists in Bihar - 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 now writing to express our grave concern regarding, the alleged murder of two journalists in Garhani block of Bhojpur district in Bihar.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Communication with Mr. Rakesh, Dainik Bhaskar's Bhojpur District Correspondent
- The Coordinator of HRDA for the East of India
- Media reports

The Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Navin Nishchal was a journalist for the last 15 years and was associated with Danik Bhaskar, a leading news daily and has been working as their rural correspondent.

Mr. Vijay Singh was also a journalist and worked with Mr. Navin as a stringer. He used to assist Mr. Navin in different rural coverages.

The Perpetrators:

- Mr. Ahmed Ali alias Harsu
- Mr. Dabloo

Date of Incident:

March 25, 2018.

Place of Incident:

Arrah-Sasram State Highway, Bhojpur district of Bihar.

Incident detail:

As per the sources, journalists Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh went to the Garhani bazar area to cover the Ramnavami procession on the evening of March 20, 2018. While covering the Ramnavami procession they had an argument with Mr. Ahmed Ali alias Harsu, the husband of a former local council leader.

Later, after finishing their work, they both were returning to their village on a bike and it is said that Harsu and his son Dabloo rammed their car into their bike on which both the journalists were travelling. After hitting them from the car, they fled from the accident site. Both journalists, Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh, died in the spot.

Mr. Rajesh Nischal, brother of deceased Navin Nischal had registered a complaint in the Garhani Police Station against Harsu, Dabloo and his associates and a First Information Report has been filed in this regard. It is said that the perpetrator Harsu has several criminal cases against him.

Appeal:

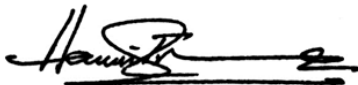
We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of brutal murder of Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh;

- Based on the independent investigation, take immediate legal actions on the perpetrators who have been absconding after the incident;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the families of the defenders for the psychological sufferings they are undergoing because of the death of Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh;
- Put an end to all acts of attacks, harassment and killings of all human rights defenders including journalists like Navin Nischal and Vijay Singh in the state of Bihar and to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary

Copies to:

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Bihar State Human Rights Commission
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