



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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March 29, 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

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Madhya Pradesh – Mr. Sandeep Sharma – Brutal murder of journalist and human rights defender Madhya Pradesh – Regarding

Dear Sir,

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, an investigating journalist of illegal sand mining cases in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district died after a dumper ran over him;

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Coordinator of HRDA for the East of India
- Media reports

The Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Sandeep Sharma, was a journalist working for News World TV channel based in Madhya Pradesh.

The Perpetrators:

1. Mr. Prashant Khare, District Superintendent of Police, Bhind

2. Sub Divisional Police Officer Indra Veer Singh Bhadouria, on whom the journalist conducted a sting operation in 2017

Date of Incident:

March 26, 2018

Place of Incident:

Near Kotwali police station in Bhind district, Madhya Pradesh

Incident detail:

As per sources, Mr. Sandeep Sharma was riding his bike on March 26, 2018, when he was hit by a truck near Kotwali police station in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. Unfortunately, he succumbed to the injuries and died on the spot itself.

Mr. Sharma was an investigative journalist who had been investigating the nexus between the sand mining mafia and the police. He had also filed a story accusing a police officer, Sub Divisional Police Officer Indra Veer Singh Bhadouria in 2017, of being hand in glove with the sand mafia. An audio conversation of the officer in question was aired by his channel after which the officer was transferred a few months ago. He was facing death threats from Indra Veer Singh Bhadouria whom he had exposed and he had already brought this to the notice of the Superintendent of Police citing threat to his life.

Mr. Sharma had filed complaint with the local police station citing immediate threat to his life from Indra Veer Singh Bhadouria after the sting operation. Mr. Sharma after apprehending threat to him and his family members had approached the District Superintendent of Police in November 2017, for adequate security and protection but the police failed to provide so, which would have saved his life.

It is also alleged that the local police delayed in responding to the incident of the truck running over Mr. Sharma and that they arrived at the scene after 15 to 20 minutes although the spot was just few meters away from the Bhind police station.

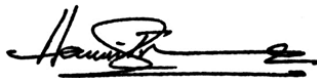
Appeal :

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 murder of Mr. Sandeep Sharma.
- Based on the independent investigation, take immediate legal actions on the perpetrators.
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the family of the defender and journalist for the psychological sufferings they are undergoing because of the death of Mr. Sandeep Sharma.
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment and killing against all human rights defenders and journalists like Mr. Sandeep Sharma in the state of Madhya Pradesh 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

Honorary Working Secretary

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