



# 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

**April 20, 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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action–Rajasthan:  
Harassment, attack and intimidation of Dalit rights activists and  
human rights defenders by registering false complaints against  
them in Rajasthan - 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 harassment, attack and intimidation of human rights defenders and dalit rights activists by registering false complaint against them.

**Status of Human Rights Defender:**

- Ms. Shanti Devi, a chief functionary of “Public Cehna Sansthan” and a fellow of “Dalit Foundation”
- Mr. Anop, Secretary of “Public Cehna Sansthan”
- Mr. Jagadish, a chief functionary of “Merudhar Vikas Seva Sansthan” a grass root organisation, working for Dalits
- Mr. Gordhan Jaipal, a fellow of “Dalit Foundation” and an advocate working for Dalit rights

- Mr. Modaram of “Dalit Sosan Mukti Manch”, an organisation engaged in the area for the protection of rights of the Dalits
- Mr. Ashok Meghawal, Secretary of “Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan”, an organisation active in the area for the protection of rights of Dalits
- Dr. Niranjana Kumar, a physician supporting dalit movements

**Source of Information on the Incident:**

- Regional Coordinator for Eastern zone of HRDA
- Communication with Advocate Gordhan Jaipal

**Perpetrators:**

1. Rajan Dushant, Superintendent of Police, Jodhpur district
2. Khinlbe Singh Additional Superintendent of Police, Jodhpur district
3. Harfool Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Phalodi
4. Madan Singh Chauhan, Station House Officer, Phalodi Police Station
5. Hanuman Ra, Sub Inspector, Phalodi Police Station

**Date of the Incident:**

April 2, 2018

**Details of the Incident:**

A nationwide protest was held on April 2, 2018, against the recent Supreme Court’s order on the Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. In a show of support and solidarity, Dalit organisations from Phalodi subdivision area of Jodhpur district in Rajasthan had also planned for a joint protest at Phalodi “Ambedkar Chowk” April 2, 2018. Around 10 AM, about 5,000 members from different organisations had gathered near Ambedkar Chowk, Phalodi. It was decided by the participants of the protest to have a meeting and proceed for a rally to the office of the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) and present a memorandum to him addressed to the President of India.

While they were proceeding towards SDM’s office, they were stopped by SDM, police personnel and other authorities. The administration and police asked the protestors to stop the rally as there were counter-protests underway in the near-by areas. The

people holding counter protests, mostly from the dominant castes, were in possession of lathis and weapons. Agreeing to the request of the SDM and other authorities, with the intention to contribute towards maintaining law and order, the members of dalit organisations and others gathered in support of them submitted the memorandum to the SDM at the same place.

Around 12.30 PM the participants of the rally started returning to their respective villages. On their return, a mob suddenly started attacking them in the presence of police troops and officers deputed on duty. All the protestors started running back to the place where they had held meeting before starting the rally, but the violent mob chased them to the place and continued to attack them. The police personnel did not take any action to stop the attack on the peaceful protestors, even when the violent mob crossed the Phalodi police station.

The statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was also damaged and about 50 Dalit protestors were injured in this attack. The mob also indulged in damaging public properties, torched a motor bike torched and damaged another 15-20 other vehicles. At about 2 PM, the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), SDM and other officials reached the spot of violence. The mob had also vandalised a Dalit human rights defender Mr. Dheraram's house at Indira colony, Phalodi. In an immediate response to the targeted violence, members of Dalit organisations submitted eight complaints to the police against the violent mob and returned back to their individual villages with police protection.

Later false and fabricated complaints were registered against 46 members of the Dalit community while no action was taken on the complaint filed by Dalit organisations. Following it, the police called Dalit leaders from the Phalodi village, including Modaram Askok, Gopal, Shanti Devi, Anop, Jagadish to the police station. Only Modaram, Ashok and Gopal went to the police station on April 6, 2018, where the police threatened the Dalit human rights defenders of dire consequences.

A team of the Dalit human rights defenders met the Director General of Police in Jaipur on April 6, 2018 under the leadership of Advocate Gordhan Jaipal and apprised him

about the ground situation on how the local police was harassing the dalit human rights defenders by registering false complaints.

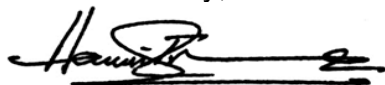
**Appeal:**

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 through NHRC's independent investigation team;
- Establish a sitting in Rajasthan on an earliest date whereby all Dalit human rights defenders can submit their statements pertaining to false and fabricated charges against them as a reprisal for protests on April 2, 2018;
- Ensure that all the false cases against the peaceful protestors are quashed after proper enquiry;
- Order legal actions against the police officials responsible for registering false and fabricated cases against human rights defenders, and;
- Ensure that no further harassment, attack or intimidation happens to the dalit activists and other participants of the rally supporting Dalit rights by police or any other person.

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,**  
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](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org) [defenders@ohchr.org](mailto:defenders@ohchr.org) [hrd-ra@ohchr.org](mailto:hrd-ra@ohchr.org)

**Mr. Clement Nyaletsossi Voule**  
**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](mailto:freeassembly@ohchr.org)

**Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume**

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination,  
xenophobia and related intolerance  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Fax: +41 22 917 9006  
Email: [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@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](mailto: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](mailto:info@frontlinedefenders.org) [sayeed@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:sayeed@frontlinedefenders.org)  
[asia@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:hrd@forum-asia.org)

**OMCT International Secretariat**

PO Box 21

8, rue du Vieux-Billard

1211 Geneva 8

Switzerland

E-mail: [omct@omct.org](mailto:omct@omct.org)

**Human Rights Watch**

350, Fifth Avenue, 34<sup>th</sup> Floor,

New York

Email: [gangulm@hrw.org](mailto:gangulm@hrw.org) [bajorij@hrw.org](mailto: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](mailto:aakar.patel@amnesty.co.in)

**CIVICUS: World Alliance for World Participation**

Johannesburg

South Africa

Email: [Mandeep.Tiwana@civicus.org](mailto:Mandeep.Tiwana@civicus.org) [tor.hodenfield@civicus.org](mailto:tor.hodenfield@civicus.org)

[cathal.gilbert@civicus.org](mailto:cathal.gilbert@civicus.org) [dominic.perera@civicus.org](mailto: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](mailto:liv.kvanvig@nhrf.no)