



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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Ref No:- HRDA/East/WB/7/6/2018

June 22, 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 - Odisha: Urgent Appeal for Action against the illegal arrest of human rights defender Mr. Alik Chakrabarty under draconian UAPA– 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 about the illegal arrest of human rights defender Mr. Alik Chakrabarty on May 31, 2018, He was arrested under false charges while he was under treatment at Kalinga Hospital in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.

**Source of Information on the Incident:**

- HRDA Regional Coordinator
- Communication from other HRDs in the region
- Media reports

**The Human Rights Defenders:**

Mr. Alik Chakrabarty is actively associated with different people's movement in the state of West Bengal. He is a leader of a democratic movement against the setting up of a power grid by the Power Grid Corporation at Machhibhanga in Bhangar where

over 30 villages are affected by the project. He is also the politburo member of the CPI ML-(Red Star).

**The Perpetrators:**

- Arijit Singh, Superintendent of Police Baruipur, West Bengal.
- Yogesh Bahadur Khurania, Commissioner of Police Cuttack & Bhubaneswar.
- Police personnel of the Bhubaneswar & Cuttack Commissionerate

**Date of Incident:**

May 31, 2018

**Place of Incident:**

Kalinga Hospital at Bhubaneswar, Odisha

**Background:**

The Power Grid Corporation of India, is building a power project in the Bhangar area in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. The state government is trying to forcefully displace about 32 villages around the site of the project. In January 2018, two villagers died in a police firing at a protest opposing the project. The villagers' movement is spearheaded by Jomi, Jibika, Poribesh O Bastutantra Raksha Committee (Committee to protect land, livelihood, environment and ecosystem). The committee is guided by CPI-ML (Red Star) and Mr. Alik is the leader of the same.

Mr. Alik Chakrabarty is suffering from chronic gastro-intestinal disorder, he often visits doctors in Hyderabad, Bangalore and Bhubaneswar for his treatment. He had left Kolkata eight days ago before his arrest for treatment at Bhubaneswar.

**Incident detail:**

As per the sources, on May 31, 2018, at about 4.15 PM, under the instruction from Baruipur Police, Superintendent of Police along with police personnel from the Bhubaneswar and Cuttack Police Commissionerate arrested Mr. Alik Chakrabarty from Kalinga Hospital where he was undergoing treatment. He has been charged under the provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Explosives Act and also charged for murder and arson. All the charges seem to be fabricated against him for his involvement in different people's movement in West Bengal and particularly in the Bhangar forceful displacement. It will be pertinent to mention here that the West Bengal police has filed about 70 false cases against him until now.

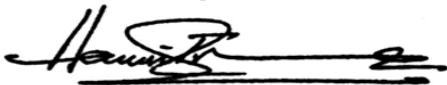
**Appeal:**

We, therefore urge the Hon'ble Commission to immediately:

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of the false arrest of Mr. Alik Chakrabarty;
- Ensure that all the false complaints filed against Mr. Alik Chakrabarty to harass and threaten him are quashed;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the defender for the psychological sufferings he has undergone because of the false cases against him and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs;
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment of human rights defenders in the State of West Bengal to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances; and,
- More generally, ensures in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments ratified by India is strictly adhered to in the state of West Bengal.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



**(Henri Tiphagne)**

Honorary National Working Secretary