



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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June 25, 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 RTI activist and human rights defender Mr. Rajender Singh– Regarding

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a Forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavors 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 murder of RTI activist and human rights defender Mr. Rajender Singh by unknown assailants in broad day light on June 19, 2018 in East Champaran district, Bihar.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- HRDA Regional Coordinator
- Media reports
- Communication with Adv. Hiraj Ram, Motihari, and Mr. Arvind Kumar, NCPRI member Bihar

The Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Rajendra Singh was aged about 60 years and was a resident of village Rajpur, in East Champaran district of Bihar. He was a marginal farmer and an RTI activist who was fighting against various irregularities in panchayats, blocks, banks and other institutions in the district level. He was doing this independently and was active for more than ten years.

Mr. Singh had exposed discrepancies in the functioning of a Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) office and irregularities in teachers and police recruitments. Mr. Singh also had exposed the misuse of government funds meant for building toilets and houses under Indira Awas Yojna (IAY).

Mr. Singh, as result of his RTI work, had lodged a case against 200 fake beneficiaries of an old-age pension scheme, following which they were forced to return the money to the government. Following his personal investigations in many such scams, several FIRs had been registered with the interference of local courts and some cases were recently being put on trial.

The Perpetrators:

- Shri Upendra Kumar Sharma, Superintendent of Police
- Murli Manohar Manjhi, Deputy Superintendent of Police,
- Abhishek Ranjam, Station House Officer (SHO), Piprakothi police station

Date of Incident:

June 19, 2018

Place of Incident:

Near Mathbanwari Chawk close to Piprakothi Police Station in Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar

Incident detail:

As per the sources, at about 1 PM on June 19, 2018, while Mr. Rajendra Singh was returning to his village on a bike after meeting his lawyer at Motihari, he was killed by unknown assailants near Mathbanwari Chawk close to Piprakothi Police Station. He was rushed to the nearest hospital where he was declared dead.

It will be pertinent to mention here that in last five years four attempts were made on his life from which he had narrowly escaped. On several occasions, Mr. Singh had sought security from senior police officers, but his petition remained under process. Moreover, the local police too were irked by his activism and he was implicated in several false cases and was even arrested under the Arms Act in 2016.

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 the murder of RTI activist and human rights defender Mr. Rajendra Singh.
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators, in this case they are unknown, who should be searched for with a nationwide alert issued and investigation done transparently and considering all angles.
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the family of the defender for the psychological sufferings they are undergoing because of the death of Mr. Rajendra Singh.
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment of human rights defenders in the State of Bihar 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 Bihar.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

Honorary National Working Secretary