



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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July 4, 2019

To,

**Mr.Khaleel Ahmed**

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 – Gujarat: Slain Dalit RTI activist son murdered by same perpetrators in Gujarat - 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 murder of dalit teenager Rajesh Sondarva for trying to get bail of his father's killer cancelled.

**Source of Information on the Incident:**

- Media sources
- Activists in the region
- Regional Coordinator for the South & West of India

**About the Human Rights Defenders under attack:**

- Nanji Sondarva is a Dalit RTI activist. He was regularly filing applications under the RTI act seeking information of corruption and irregularities.
- Rajesh Sondarva is a 19 year old teenage son of Nanji Sondarva

**The Perpetrators:**

- Mahendrasinh Bhikhubha Jadeja, is husband of Beenaba Jadeja, the present member of Kotda Sangani taluka panchayat & son of former village sarpanch of Manekvada village Bhikhubha Jadeja
- Ajaysinh Jadeja
- Jitendrasinh Chandubha Jadeja
- Jitendrasinh Nirmalsinh Jadeja
- Narendrasinh Jadeja
- Jagabhai Bharwad.

**Date of Incident:**

May 22, 2019

**Place of Incident:**

Rajkot, Gujarat

**Details of the incident:**

On May 22, 2019 Rajesh Sondarva, the teenage son of Dalit RTI activist Nanji Sondarva, murdered a year ago was intercepted by a group of upper-caste Kshatriya men while he, along with a friend, Milan Parmar, was returning home in Manekvada village in Kotda Sangani taluka from Rajkot city and was hacked to death.

Rajesh's father Nanji Sondarvawas a Dalit RTI activist was murdered by a group of men from Kshatriya community on March 9, 2018, after he alleged corruption in development projects in Manekvada village and sought details of criminal antecedents of the accused. Police had booked persons at the Manekvada for Nanji Sondarva's murder and arrested all of them, however, the Gujarat High Court had granted them bail.

According to sources, Rajesh noticed that one Jitendrasinh Chandubha accused of murdering his father was roaming freely in his village, despite having secured bail on the condition that he would not enter the district. Hence, Rajesh moved the court for cancelling the bail and was not ready for a compromise in old cases when approached by the perpetrators. Apparently, this is the motive for Rajesh's murder.

It is also stated that same persons have been arrested on both murder cases and the accused persons had been trying to force other Dalits in the village to strike truce with them to withdraw the cases against them under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, but did not succeed. This had also added the motive of Rajesh's murder.

**Appeal:**

We therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that the Superintendent of Police, the District Collector and District Magistrate of Rajkot District:

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of murder of dalit RTI activist's son Mr. Rajesh Sondarva and Mr. Nanji Sondarva
- Ensure that the accused persons are booked under Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- Ensure that the family of Mr. Nanji Sondarva receive adequate compensation as per provisions of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators by arresting them and using all provisions of law to ensure that the defenders, like Rajesh Sondarva are not harassed or attacked in future and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,  
Yours sincerely,



**Henri Tiphagne**

Honorary National Working Secretary