



# 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

Ref No: HRDA/North/UP/09/01/2020

January 10, 2020

To

**Mr. Debindra Kundra**

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Assistant 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- Uttar Pradesh: Arbitrary arrest, false case and custodial torture of woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar in Lucknow – 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 endeavors to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are writing to express our deep concern over the arbitrary arrest, detention and torture of activist and woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar by Uttar Pradesh police in police custody in Hazratganj police station in the state capital Lucknow.

### **Status of the Woman Human Rights Defender**

Sadaf Zafar is a Woman Human Rights Defender. She is a former teacher and a political activist. She is one of the media in charge for Uttar Pradesh Congress party.

### **The Perpetrators:**

Police personnel of Hazratganj police station in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

### **Date of Incident:**

December 19, 2019

Hazratganj police station, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

**Details of the Incident:**

According to the information received Sadaf Zafar was arbitrarily arrested by the police on December 19, 2019 when she was capturing videos of the protests taking place at Parivartan Chowk in Lucknow as part of the Anti-CAA protest. She posted two videos on her Facebook account in which she recorded as to how the police were not taking any action against the group of persons who had resorted to vandalism during the protest. In the video clip she can be heard telling cops to nab those who were pelting stones while she was being abused by the male cops and later a women cop caught her hand and took her into custody. A case against Woman Sadaf Zafar was filed in Hazratganj police station in Lucknow with Case no 600/2019 under sections 147, 148, 149, 152, 307, 323, 504, 506, 332, 353, 188, 435, 436, 120 B, 427 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), sections 3 and 4 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Section 7 of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act (CLA). She has been booked for charges of rioting, unlawful assembly, attempt to murder, wrongful constraints, criminal intimidation, criminal assault on public servant etc.

In her statement given to media after her release, she said, "Later in the night, I was told 'a senior police officer wants to meet. I thought he would help and inform my family. When I went to his room, I was abused badly. Then he asked a female cop to hit me. But he was not satisfied... he pulled my hair and then kicked me in stomach. I was called a Pakistani. None of the cops were wearing badges." Sources informed that on the evening of December 21, 2019 it was learnt that Zafar is being sent to jail, but her family members were not informed of it by the police. When her sister Naheed Verma went to meet her in jail, she told her that male police personnel had arrested her when she was making the Facebook Live video. She was severely beaten by the police in the police station. Male police personnel abused her and stabbed her in the lower abdomen, causing severe bleeding. On December 23, the Court of Special Chief Judicial Magistrate had rejected her bail application. On January 4, 2020 noting that there was no witness to testify the specific role of the applicant during the violent protests in Lucknow, the Sessions court granted her bail.

**Appeal:**

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that this Hon'ble Commission to urgently:

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the abovementioned incident of illegal detention, degrading inhuman treatment and torture of social activist and woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar by the police personnel of Hazratganj police station in the state capital Lucknow;
- Take necessary steps to ensure that the cases filed against social activist and woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar are withdrawn and defender is not harassed or intimidated or falsely implicated in future and give this assurance to the NHRC of India in writing immediately and urgently;
- Recommend strict and immediate legal action on the perpetrators in this case Police personnel of Hazratganj police station in the state capital Lucknow for filing criminal cases, illegal detention and physical torture of social activist and woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar and give this assurance to the NHRC of India in writing immediately and urgently;
- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity and security of social activist and woman human rights defender Ms. Sadaf Zafar who is still under risk of further reprisals from the perpetrators 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)**

National Working Secretary