



HRDA/UA/NE/MPR/01/01/2024

January 06, 2024

To,
Mr. Indrajeet Kumar,
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 – Urgent Appeal for Action – Manipur – Imphal – Attack on home of HRD Thounaojam Brinda by members of vigilante group Meria Paibi.

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert!

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 concern regarding the attack on HRD Brinda by members of vigilante group Meria Paibai of Torbung village of Bishnupur District, Manipur on December 18, 2023.

About the Human Rights Defenders:

Ms. Thounaojam Brinda is a former Assistant Superintendent of Police. She was granted the Gallantry Award by the State of Manipur in 2018 for her fight against Narcotics.

Source of Information:

- Communication with the HRD
- Communication with other HRDs in the state

Perpetrators: Members of vigilante group Meria Paibai of Torbung village of Bishnupur District, Manipur.

Date of Incident:

December 18, 2023

Place of Incident:

Yaiskul, Imphal

Background:

On October 3, 2023, a telephonic conversation was leaked which had Ms. Brinda saying that Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun started burning down Meitei houses on May 3 in the Torbung Bangla area. Ms. Brinda's house was attacked and she was forced to clarify and apologise to the public on October 4, 2023, by Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun, including their women vigilantes.

Details of the Incident:

On December 18, 2023, a group of women vigilantes belonging to the Meria Paibai of Torbung village of Bishnupur District, Manipur attacked the residence of Ms. Brinda in Yaiskul, Imphal. At the time of the attack, Ms. Brinda was not in her home. The attackers destroyed historical artifacts, the chair of Manipur's patriot, Bir Tikendrajit and vandalised the entire house.

We are seriously concerned by the attack on a decorated ex police officer and a HRD. This amounts to violation of multiple Constitutional rights that include freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a), freedom of association (Article 19(1)(c), freedom to carry his profession as a human rights activist (Article 19(1)(g) and right to life and liberty (Article 21) without any fear of intimidation and harassment.

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 1999 states the following: Article 12 (2) and (3) "*The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure, or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities, and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of*

violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

HRDA strongly believes that the attack on the house of Brinda members of vigilante group Meria Paibai of Torbung village of Bishnupur District, Manipur is an act of reprisal for their activism as a Human Right Defender.

Appeal:

We urge the Hon'ble Commission to take cognisance of the above case and urgently Direct the Director General of the Police of Manipur to ensure the safety of HRD and her family. We hope to hear from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a horizontal line underneath it.

(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary