



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/NE/MPR/45/07/2024

16 July 2024

To
Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani,
Acting Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi -110 023
Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Ma'am,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of registration of FIR and arrest of the DESAM protestors on June 14, 2024

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on June 13, 2024, student activists of Democratic Student's Alliance of Manipur (DESAM) organised a protest at 11 AM to discuss about the recruitment process of pre-primary teachers by the state government. The protest was led by DESAM Assistant Secretary General Sorokhaibam Rokiyo (20) s/o Manikhomba of Pukhao Leitanpokpi, Anti-drugs Campaign Secretary Pilot Khangembam (23) s/o Yaima of Bishnupur Thiyam Leikai Ward No 8 and Finance Secretary Oinam Surjakanta (29) s/o Shelungba of Thoubal Athokpam Khunou.

The police arrested the 3 organisers on June 14, 2024, and remanded them to judicial custody. The FIR is registered under crime No 394 (6) / 2024 U/S 451. 380, 186, 506, 120-B of Indian Penal Code and Section 3 of PDPP Act before Lamphel police station. They were booked for House Trespass in order to commit theft in dwelling house, obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy & mischief causing damage to public property.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference - [Students remanded - The Sangai Express - Largest Circulated NewsPaper in Manipur](#)

We believe registration of FIR and arrest is an act of reprisal against their activism.

We urgently appeal to you to exercise Section 12 (a) of the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019, and take suo moto cognizance of this incident and initiate an independent inquiry through NHRC's investigation wing. We hope and expect that the NHRC will intervene in this case impartially and in a time bound manner.

Yours Sincerely,

(Henri Tiphagne)
National Working Secretary