



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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April 12, 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 – Jayant Kumar - Murder of RTI Activist and human rights defender Jayant Kumar in Bihar - 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 about the murder of RTI activist & human rights defender Mr.Jayant Kumar in the state of Bihar.

Status of Human Rights Defender:

Jayant Kumar @ Happy is a RTI activist and have been using the Right to Information Act, in exposing corruption and embezzlement in various government schemes and projects in Vaishali district of Bihar.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- HRDA, Regional Coordinator for Eastern zone
- Interaction with other RTI activists from the state, who are associated with the National Campaign on People's Right to Information (NCPRI).

Perpetrators:

Unidentified persons

Place of Incident:

Garaul Chowk, Vaishali district of Bihar

Date of Incident:

April 4, 2018

Details of the Incident:

As per the sources, on April 4, 2018 at about 12.30 PM, Jayant Kumar and his friend were at Garaul Chowk near a tea shop in Vaishali district of Bihar. Suddenly, two unidentified assailants came in a motor bike and fired on Jayant and he died at the spot. His friend Arvind also suffered bullet injuries and was taken to nearby hospital and continues to be under medical treatment.

It will be pertinent to mention here that, earlier Jayant Kumar had filed RTI application in the Garaul police station regarding the irregularities in the police station. It is now alleged by the family members of Jayant Kumar that the previous Station House Officer might have been involved in this murder.

Other RTI activists and human rights defenders in the state allege that false and fabricate cases are filed against the RTI activists in Bihar due to their work and have been facing increased risks and also that 13 RTI activists have died in the state since last year.

According to sources who wish to remain anonymous, Mr. Jayant had reportedly earned the displeasure of several government officials in the district by seeking information about various projects through RTI. Since last couple of years Mr. Jayant has exposed corruption made in the implementation of social schemes by the government departments. He had even filed petition under the RTI Act to expose the corruption in the criminal justice administration system.

Appeal:

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 brutal murder of Jayant Kumar
- 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 Jayant Kumar
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment and killing against all human rights defenders like Jayant Kumar in the state of Bihar and to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

Honorary National Working Secretary

Copies to:

Chairperson,
Bihar State Human Rights Commission
Email: sec-bhrc@nic.in

Director General of Police,
Police Headquarters,
Patna, Bihar.
E.mail: dgp-bih@nic.in