



Human Rights Defenders Alert- India

National Coordination Office

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June 15, 2017

To,

Shri 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 – Tamil Nadu. Mr. Mr. Ebilisious Joel, a human rights defender abused, harassed and brutally assaulted by police in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu – 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 writing to express our grave concern regarding the abuse, harassment, and brutal assault by the police personnel on HRD Mr. Ebilisious Joel in Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Communication from HRD Mr. Ebilisious Joel
- State Coordinator, Citizens Human Rights Movement (CHRM), Tamil Nadu
- Regional Coordinator for the South, HRDA-India

The Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Ebilisious Joel is a resident of Karungal, Vilavankodu Taluk, Kanyakumari District. He is the Kanyakumari District President of Democratic Youth Federation of India as well as the Executive Member of the Karungal Regional Traders' Association.

The Perpetrators:

- Mr. Ramesh Mohan, Sub-Inspector of Karungal Police Station
- Head Constable Mr. Paulraj
- Mr. Kaspar Raj, John Kennedy, Rasilraj, Prathap – Constables of Karungal Police Station.

Date of Incident:

March 18, 2017

Place of Incident:

Karungal Junction, Vilavankodu Taluk, Kanyakumari District and Karungal Police Station.

Incident detail:

According to sources, at 6:15 PM on March 18, 2017, Mr. Ebilisious Joel was driving a two wheeler near Karungal junction. The Police Sub-Inspector Mr. Ramesh Mohan stopped Mr. Joel and he told him that since he was not wearing a helmet, his vehicle is seized and parked it inside the Karungal police station. Then, Mr. Joel had gone into the police station campus to take some important business documents which he had kept in the two-wheeler. The police did not allow him to take those documents from his bike. Seeing Mr. Joel doing this, the police sub- Inspector Mr Ramesh Mohan got angry and scolded him with filthy words and beat him up with a stick. The police head constable Mr. Paulraj and other constables Mr.Kasper Raj, Mr.John Kennedy, Mr.Rasil Raj and Mr.Prathap joined them and physically assaulted Mr. Joel, because of which he was severely injured. He was taken into custody thereafter. The local members of the DYFI came to know of the brutal attack of police on Mr. Joel and rushed to the Karungal police station, got him released from the police custody, ensured first aid in the nearby Anna Hospital and later admitted him in the Parasala Government Hospital in Kerala.

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that the Commissioner of Police, the District Collector and District Magistrate of Kanyakumari District -

- Orders an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of abuse, harassment and brutal assault by the police personnel of Karungal Police station on HRD Mr.Ebilisious Joel especially by the Sub Inspector Mr. Ramesh Mohan;
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators in this case the Karungal Police Sub-Inspector Mr. Ramesh Mohan, Head Constable Mr.Paulraj and police constables Mr.Kaspar Raj, Mr. John Kennedy, Mr.Rasilraj and Mr. Prathap for the abuse, harassment and brutal assault of HRD Mr.Ebilisious Joel;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to defender for the physical and psychological suffering he underwent because of the harassment and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs;
- Put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders in the State of Tamil Nadu to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances;
- More generally, ensures in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with in accordance with the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments ratified by India is strictly adhered to in the state of Tamil Nadu.

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

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

(Henri Tiphagne)
National Working Secretary