



Human Rights Defenders Alert – India

National Coordination Office

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January 27, 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

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Manipur: Police torture and inhumane treatment of Mr. Gaidon Kamei, President of United Naga Council in Manipur – 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 endeavours to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are writing to express our grave concern over the torture and inhumane treatment of Mr. Gaidon Kamei, President of United Naga Council (UNC), while he was in police custody.

Source of Information on the Incident:

Regional Coordinator of HRDA for North-East of India

Status of the Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Gaidon Kamei is the President of United Naga Council.

The Perpetrators:

Manipur Police

Date of Incident:

November 25, 2016 onwards

Place of Incident:

Imphal, Manipur

Details of the Incident:

Mr. Gaidon Kamei, aged 52 years, was arrested from Pheidinga area along NH-2 on November 25, 2016, by a team of Imphal West Police. He was arrested for protesting after the Government of Manipur failed to implement four Memorandums of Understanding between Naga civic bodies and the Government of Manipur and also against any move by the State Government to create new districts in areas which they consider their 'ancestral homeland'.

According to sources, Mr. Gaidon Kamei and Mr. Sankhui Stephan, Publicity Secretary of UNC, were arrested at Pheidinga in Imphal West. It is now alleged that Mr. Gaidon Kamei was subjected to illegal torture and inhumane treatment in police custody since November 25, 2016, including 'electric shock' in the 'Joint Interrogation Cell' in the Kangla fort complex in Imphal City, a heritage and cultural historic site of Manipur managed by the Archaeology department and the Art & Culture department of Manipur. Mr. Gaidon Kamei has expressed excruciating pain on left portion of his body due to police torture and prayed for treatment.

Appeal:

HRDA most respectfully appeals that this Hon'ble Commission to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that:

- An immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned complaint of the torture in police custody of human rights defender Mr. Gaidon Kamei is ordered;
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators, in this case the Manipur Police, for the acts of torture and illtreatment perpetuated on human rights defender Mr. Gaidon Kamei;
- Appoint of an experienced lawyer practicing criminal law in this case to ensure that the HRD Mr. Gaidon Kamei is represented at all stages of this case and ensure that all legal remedies are available to the human rights defender. The appointed lawyer should report at periodic intervals to the NHRC on the progress in the case registered
- Guarantee in all circumstances at the cost of the state, the physical and psychological integrity of the human rights defender Mr. Gaidon Kamei who is still under risk of further attacks from the perpetrators
- Put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders in the State of Manipur to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances;
- Takes steps to conform to the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, especially:
 - Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels
 - Article 12.2, which provides that "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”;

- More generally, ensures in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms 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 Manipur.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,
(Henri Tiphagne).

S/d-
Honorary National Working Secretary