



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/WEST/MH/09/05/2025

May 22, 2025

To
Justice Mr. V. Ramasubramanian (Retd),
Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi –110 023
Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Sir,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of arrest of journalist Rejaz by Nagpur Police for Criticising Operation Sindoor on 07.05.2025 - Reg

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on 07.05.2025, Journalist Rejaz M Sheeba Sydeek was arrested from a hotel in Nagpur, Maharashtra after the police raided based on the intelligence inputs. The police seized three books: He who Defied Death; life and times of Prof G.N Saibaba, The Great Legacy of Marxism-Leninism: Lenin on the Socialist State and Only People Make Their Own History along with a T-shirt in which Rejaz allegedly posted social media posts. Rejaz then was produced before the Local magistrate and he was remanded to police custody until 13.05.2025.

On 07.05.2025, an FIR has been registered against Journalist Rejaz at Lakadgani police station under sections 149 (preparing to wage war against the government of India), 192 (giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 351 (1) (b) (criminal intimidation) and 353 (3) (statements conducing to public mischief) of BNS, 2023. The FIR specifically mentions another post in which Rejaz criticised the Indian Army's Operation Sindoor, which allegedly led to civilian deaths in Pakistan. The Instagram post included a photo of a child with the message, "This is a child!!! Targeting kids is serving justice??? Indian Army Murdabad!!!". The social media handle of the Rejaz has been withheld and the police allege that that Rejaz condemned Operation Sindoor, along with Operation Kagaar, which has been underway in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, where over 400 individuals, including both Maoists and civilians, have died in recent months.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference – [Kerala Journalist Arrested by Nagpur Police for Criticising Operation Sindoor - The Wire](#)

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