



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/South/KAR/39/02/2024

May 30, 2024

To

Justice (retd.) Mr. AK Mishra

Chairperson,

National Human Rights Commission,

Manav Adhikar Bhawan,

Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,

New Delhi -110 023

Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Justice Mishra,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings re detention of members of Karnataka General Labour Union who were protesting against arbitrary removal of ward attenders in Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru on May 10, 2024.

We are writing to bring to your kind attention that on May 10, 2024 members of Karnataka General Labour Union (AICCTU) organised a sit in protest within the hospital premises. The protest was started on May 8, 2024 against arbitrary removal of 56 ward attenders from the work by Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru. The ward members and the members of AICTU demanded reinstatement of the ward attenders and payment of their pending salaries. The police threatened the protestors on May 9, 2024 and on May 10, 2024 50 protestors were taken into preventive detention by the V.V Puram police and were later released at around 05.30 PM.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference - [Victoria Hospital protesters detained; labour dept to conduct inquiry \(deccanherald.com\)](https://www.deccanherald.com)

We believe that the preventive detention of 50 protestors who were protesting for reinstatement of their jobs is an act of reprisal by the Bangalore V.V Puram police.

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,

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

(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary