HRDA/NHRC-SM/North/JK/36/03/2024

March 11, 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 in the case of re-arrest of journalist Mr. Aasif Sultan on 1st March, 2024.

We are writing to you in bring to your kind attention that journalist Aasif Sultan, the Assistant Editor of a Srinagar based English Magazine, Kashmir Narrator. He was arrested in September 2018 on allegations of "harbouring militants". He was granted bail in April 2022 and the court observed that investigation agencies had failed to establish links with any armed group.

Then police charged him under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and the journalist was detained under PSA. In January Jammu and Kashmir High Court quashed the detention order under PSA. On 27 February 2024 the journalist was released from a jail in Uttar Pradesh.

On 29th February, 2024, two days after his release, Mr. Aasif Sultan was arrested by the Kashmir Police from his residence. He was produced the court in Srinagar on 1st March, 2024 and sent to a five-day police remand.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference - Kashmiri journalist arrested two days after being released from 5-year detention - The Week.

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