



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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December 27, 2021

To,
Mr. C S Mawri,
Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Assistant 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- Kerala: Attack on WHRD due to inaction of Kerala Police despite Supreme Court order for protection.

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavors 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 repeated attacks on Women Human Rights Defender, Ms. Bindu Ammini, by political goons due to lack of round the clock full protection by the Kerala Police that was ordered by the Supreme Court.

Source of Information:

- Communication with HRDA Southern regional consultant
- Information gathered from media
- Communication with the HRDs in the region

Date of Incident:

December 18, 2021

Place of Incident:

Kozhikode, Kerala

The Perpetrators:

- Police of Koyilandy Police station, Kozhikode, Kerala
- Rightwing groups opposing Ms. Bindu Ammini

About the Human Rights Defenders:

Ms. Bindu Ammini is a WHRD, lawyer, professor and feminist from Kerala. She is one of the two first women between the age of ten and fifty to enter the Sabarimala Temple after the Indian Supreme Court decision which allowed women of reproductive age to enter the temple. She was also a part of the farmers' protest at the Ghazipur border.

Background of the Incident:

After the Supreme Court decision allowing the entry of women between the ages of ten and fifty into the Sabarimala Temple, Ms. Ammini on December 22, 2018, along with and three other women, attempted to go to Sabarimala temple, but were stopped by protesters. They went on a hunger strike to protest the lack of police protection.

On January 2, 2019, she successfully entered the Sabarimala Temple but was forced to go into hiding after her entry into the temple. Her house was mobbed by people belonging to Sabarimala Karma Samiti and other organizations as a reprisal against her entry to Sabarimala. On January 18, 2019, the Supreme court ordered to grant full protection round the clock to the WHRD Ms. Bindu Ammini.

In November 2019, the Supreme Court set the case for review by a larger bench. The Kerala government then withdrew its support and police protection for women entering the temple pending the decision of the Supreme Court. Ms. Ammini and other activists went to the Ernakulam City Commissioner's office in late November to seek police protection to visit the shrine again. Ms. Ammini was attacked by pepper spray outside of the commissioner's office, after which she was hospitalized.

Details of the Incident:

On December 18, 2021, Ms. Ammini was attacked in a hit-and-run incident by an autorickshaw around 9:45 pm in Kozhikode, under the jurisdiction of the Koyilandy police station, and suffered severe injuries in her head, mouth, and teeth. It was believed to be a planned attack on her by the Right-wing political goons. After the attack she was taken to the Kozhikode Medical Hospital, she received five stitches on both her lips.

On December 19, 2021, the police registered a FIR 1392/2021 under sections IPC 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons) and 307 a case for (attempt to murder) in the Koyilandy police station. However, no arrests have been made till now. Ms. Ammini has alleged that there have been other such attacks on her life also.

We are gravely concerned about the lack of protection by the Kerala police to WHRD Ms. Ammini despite orders by the Supreme Court of giving her round the clock and full police protection. The state and the police have a duty to protect the life of Ms. Ammini for her actions as an WHRD and the inaction of the local police amounts to a contempt of the Honorable Supreme Court.

Appeal:

We urge to the Hon'ble Commission to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Direct the Director General of Police of Kerala to provide full round-the-clock security to Ms. Bindu Ammini and her family as per the Supreme Court orders.
- Direct the Director General of Police of Kerala for an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned attack of Ms. Bindu Ammini and investigate the negligence and the inaction of the local police in providing her security despite court orders.

- Direct the Chief Secretary of Kerala to take necessary steps for providing congenial atmosphere to the WHRDs.

Yours sincerely,

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

Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary