



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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September 28, 2017

To,

Mr 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 – Tripura:
Killing of Santanu Bhowmick, a journalist from Dinrat news
channel in Tripura and hundreds of activists injured in
police action - 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 killing of Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, a journalist from Dinrat news channel at Mandai, West Tripura District while he was covering an agitation by Indigenous People's Front Tripura.

The Perpetrators:

Unknown

Date of Incident:

September 20, 2017

Place of Incident:

Mandai, West Tripura District

The detail of the incident

Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, a young journalist from Dinrat TV news channel of Tripura was covering an agitation and road blockade called by the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) on September 20, 2017, at Mandai in West Tripura District. According to the sources, while covering the agitation he was hit from behind and then kidnapped. Later on he was found with grievous injuries and rushed to Agartala Medical College where the doctor declared him dead.

According to the sources, after the clashes that took place between Gana Mukti Parishad (GMP), the tribal wing of CPI-M and workers of IPFT at Chhankhola area of Khowai district, 40km away from Agartala on September 20, GMP activists were attacked with iron rods and sticks in which about 118 were injured and 6 were critically injured also at least 15 buses were damaged.

According to other sources, after the clash, police conducted search operation and picked up Sapan Debberma, a member of Indigenous People's Front Tripura. He was beaten up by police brutally and now he is in the JB hospital in a critical condition. After the clashes when the police tried to chase the crowd, two persons Kwarshang Debberma, a 15 year old boy and Kubuimoi Debberma were injured in police firing and they are now in JB hospital.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Coordinator of HRDA for the North East of India
- Media Reports
- Human rights activists from Tripura

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately -

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of brutal murder of Mr. Santanu Bhowmick.
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the family of the journalist for the sufferings they are undergoing because of the death of Mr. Santanu Bhowmick.
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment and killing against all journalists and human rights defenders like Mr. Santanu Bhowmick in the state of Tripura and to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary