



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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Ref No:- HRDA/North/BR/01/01/2018

January 9, 2019

To

Mr. Khaleel Ahmed,
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 against the killing of RTI activist and Human rights defender Mr. Bhola Sah, resident of Phullidummar under Banka district of Bihar - 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 endeavors to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are now writing to express our grave concern regarding the abduction and killing of RTI activist and human rights defender Mr. Bhola Sah in Bihar.

Source of Information:

- The East zone Regional Coordinator of HRDA
- Media reports
- Interaction with HRD from Bihar

The Human Rights Defenders:

Mr. Bhola Sah was a RTI activist in the Banka district. He had exposed several financial irregularities in government social welfare schemes in his panchayat.

The Perpetrators:

Unknown assailants

Date of Incident: December 23, 2018.

Incident detail:

As per the source, on December 23 2018, while Mr Bhola Sah was supervising the construction of his house in Banarjhop village in Banka district, he was asked by some men in an SUV to accompany them to the local police station. They said he had been summoned by the station in-charge (SHO). When he did not return home, his family members inquired from the police official, who denied having called Mr. Sah. Later his body was later found near an embankment with several injury marks.

From the past work of Mr. Bhola Sah as a RTI activist and human right defender, it is anticipated that he was murdered for having exposed financial irregularities in government social welfare schemes in his panchayat.

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of the murder of RTI activist and human rights defender Mr. Bhola Sah.
- Take immediate action on the perpetrators, in this case they are unknown, who should be searched for with a nationwide alert issued and investigation done transparently and considering all angles.
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the family of the defender for the psychological sufferings they are undergoing because of the death of Mr. Bhola Sah.
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment of human rights defenders in the State of Bihar to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as defenders of human rights without any hindrances; and,
- More generally, ensures in all circumstances the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and with international human rights instruments ratified by India is strictly adhered to in the state of Bihar.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

Honorary National Working Secretary

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