



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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September 26, 2022

To,  
Mr. Indrajeet Kumar,  
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](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

**Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Punjab: Threat to life of Dalit rights defender Mr. Ashok Mahindra in Sri Muktsar Sahib district of Punjab– Regarding**

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 seek police protection for Dalit HRD Mr. Ashok Mahindra in Muktsar Sahib District of Punjab because of the grave threat to the life of the HRD and his family.

**Source of Information:**

- Communication with the HRDA North Regional Coordinator
- Communication with HRD
- Media Reports

**The Perpetrators:**

Mr. Vineet Kumar Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib  
Mr. Sachin Gupta SSP, Sri Muktsar Sahib

**Date of Incidents:**

August 31, 2022

September 01, 2022

**Place of Incident:**

Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab

**About the Human Rights Defender:**

Mr. Ashok Mahindra (49) is a Dalit human rights defender who has been working for the promotion and protection of Dalit human rights and the Dalit community for more than 13 years in Muktsar Sahib District of Punjab. He is also the founder of Bheem Kranti Sangathan, an organization working on Dalit rights and human rights.

**Background of the Incident:**

Mr. Mahindra alleges that in June 2022, Mr. Sonu Khera and Mr. Amritpal had a fight with him regarding money where they had said caste-based insults to Mr. Mahindra and threatened him. Mr. Mahindra lodged a written complaint in the police station, but no FIR was filed. Sonu Khera and Mr. Amritpal even made fake documents of compromise with Mr. Ashok Mahindra and gave it to the police station, Sri Muktsar Sahib.

On 24 August 2022 at 02:36 PM, Mr. Ashok Mahindra lodged an FIR No-0205 against Mr. Sonu Kheda and Mr. Amritpal at City Muktsar police station, regarding threat to his life. The FIR was registered under the following sections of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 sections **3**-Punishments for offences of atrocities, **4**-Punishment for neglect of duties, Indian Penal Code **193**-Punishment for false evidence, **420**- Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property, **465**-Punishment for forgery, **468**-Forgery for purpose of cheating **471**-Using as genuine a forged and **506**-Punishment for criminal intimidation.

**Details of the Incident:**

On 31 August 2022, at 10:30 pm, Mr. Ashok Mahindra was a short distance away from his house at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Marg, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab, when two masked men on a bike stopped in front of his vehicle and tried to stop his car. Mr. Mahindra didn't stop and drove on home. The CCTV camera of the neighbor near Mr. Mahendra's house showed two masked men sitting in front of Mr. Mahindra's house the next day.

On September 01, 2022, Mr. Ashok wrote a letter to the DGP and SSP regarding this incident and requested the police to inquire into the incident. The SSP ordered the DSP orally to inquire into the incident, but Mr. Mahindra alleges that there was no action taken by the DSP.

On September 08, 2022, a group of social activists and journalists went to the Mr. Vineet Kumar Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib and Mr. Sachin Gupta SSP, Sri Muktsar Sahib and demanded that they take action to protect the threat to Mr. Mahindra's life. The SSP assured them regarding the complete safety of Mr. Mahindra, however no arrests were made. According to Mr. Ashok Mahindra, his life and that of his family is in grave danger due to the threats given to him.

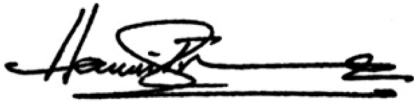
We fear that this apathy of the police is a sign of indifference and negligence of the Punjab Police towards crimes against Dalits, who often face apathy and hostility towards them. This inaction of the Punjab police has put the Dalit HRD in grave danger from the death threats he is facing.

**Appeal:**

We appeal to the Hon'ble Commission to act urgently, and

- Direct the Director General of Police of Punjab to provide complete physical and psychological security for Mr. Mahindra and his family.
- Direct the Director General of Police of Punjab to initiate an inquiry into the perpetrators threatening Mr. Mahindra and immediately arrest them.
- Direct the Director General of Police of Punjab to initiate an inquiry on why no action was taken on Mr. Mahindra's complaint by the SSP and the DSP of Sri Muksar Sahib.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Henri Tiphagne**  
National Working Secretary