



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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April 27, 2018

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

Dear Sir,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Attack on journalist
Ms. Patricia Mukhim at Meghalaya - 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 express our grave concern over the attack on the editor of The Shillong Times Ms. Patricia Mukhim by throwing bomb at her residence at Shillong, Meghalaya.

Status of Human Rights Defender:

Patricia Mukhim is a well-known journalist from Shillong, Meghalaya. She is the Editor of the Shillong Times and a Padmashree awardee in the year 2000.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- The Coordinator of HRDA for the North East of India
- Media reports

Perpetrators:

Two unidentified persons

Place of incident:

Residence of Patricia Mukhim at Umpling, Shillong, in Meghalaya

Details of the Incident

On April 17, 2018, in the evening at around 8.25 PM, two persons arrived on a motorcycle with their faces covered and hurled petrol bombs through the bedroom window of Patricia Mukhim's residence, while she was at her residence. The bombs caused a minor fire with flames arising in her house. Ms. Patricia in the past has received death threats on social media and she has also filed a complaint in Rynjah police station under sections 336 (Acts endangering safety of others), 436 (Mischief) of the Indian Penal Code.

She has been writing about illegal coal mining and rat-hole mining, which though has been banned by the National Green Tribunal is reportedly being practised in parts of Meghalaya. According to sources, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma met Union Coal Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi seeking his intervention to lift the ban that is reportedly causing a loss of Rs 700 crore and Ms. Mukhim wrote two editorials criticising the illegal and unregulated practices in the mining business, days after this meeting.

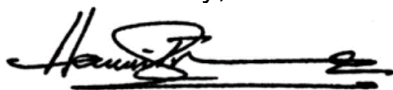
Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of
- Ensure that all adequate safety is provided to her and her family
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the defender for the psychological sufferings she has undergone because of the threats and provide a re-assurance of not engaging in such acts against HRDs

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
National Working Secretary

Copies to:

Mr. Michel Forst

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders,
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Palais Wilson
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Ms. Christine Chung

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Front Line - The International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

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Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

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Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

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