



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/South/KL/44/07/2024

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To
Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani,
Acting Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi -110 023
Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Smt. Sayani,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of use of brutal force on the protesting Kerala Student Union activists by Thiruvananthapuram Police.

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on July 9, 2024 Kerala Student Union (KSU) staged a protest march to Kerala Assembly to protest against the shortage of Class 11th seats for admission in Malabar region of Kerala.

The Thiruvananthapuram police set up the barricades and used water cannons to disperse the protestors. But when the protesting students did not budge the Police resorted to lathi charge on the protestors and chased them as they dispersed. Many protesting students were injured including Kerala Student Union President Aloysius Xavier who was shifted to hospital in a police vehicle.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference - [Kerala | Kerala Students Union holds protest march over plus one admission crisis; police lathi-charge protestors - Telegraph India](#)

We believe use of lethal force on the protesting student activist is an act of reprisal against their activism.

We urgently appeal to you to exercise Section 12 (a) of the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019, and take *suo moto* cognizance of this incident and initiate an independent inquiry through NHRC's investigation wing. We hope and expect that the NHRC will intervene in this case impartially and in a time bound manner.

Yours Sincerely,

(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary