



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/EAST/OD/20/08/2025

30 August 2025

To  
Justice V. Ramasubramanian (Retd),  
Chairperson,  
National Human Rights Commission,  
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,  
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,  
New Delhi –110 023  
Email: [chairnhrc@nic.in](mailto:chairnhrc@nic.in)

Respected Sir,

**Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of attack on journalist Sumit Kumar Ghanta at Papadahandi, Nabarangpur, Odisha on 29.08.2025 - Reg**

We are writing to you in bring to your kind attention that on 29.08.2025, at about 11.00 PM journalist Sumit Kumar Ghanta was attacked by Harekrishna Behera using a sword when he was returning to his home from Nabarangpur. The journalist was attacked near Bhabani Chhak, Papadahandi during which he sustained multiple stab wounds on his abdomen and his chest. He was taken to Papadahandi Community Health Center by the local residents, and then he was shifted Nabarangpur District Hospital and was further referred to a hospital in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

In the meantime local residents apprehended Harekrishna Behera and assaulted him before handing over to the Odisha Police. According to News Reports the journalist Sumit Kumar Ghanta registered an FIR against Karekrishan Behera regarding drug-related activities.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference – <https://odishatv.in/news/crime/knife-attack-on-journalist-in-odisha-victim-shifted-to-visakhapatnam-271000>

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  
Human Rights Defenders' Alert - India