



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/NORTH/PB/19/08/2025

14 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

Respected Sir,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of attack on journalist Balvinder Kumar Bhalla at Batala, Punjab on 01.08.2025 - Reg

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on 01.08.2025, at about 06.15 PM journalist Balvinder Kumar Bhalla visited a local hotel in Batala to use hotel washroom. When he entered the hotel he noticed two police officers one in uniform and other in plain clothes standing at the counter. He has questioned the police then he was dragged to the outside of the hotel by two police officials from 5th Battalion of Punjab Police Commandos, stationed in Bathinda (Sub Inspector Mandeep Singh and Surjit Kumar). He was then brutally assaulted on the road he was thrown into a pothole and then the police stomped on his head and his back as he lie motionless.

An FIR has been registered at Batala Civil Lines Police station on 2 August 2025 under sections 115 (2), 118 (1) and 3(5) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Senior Superintendent of Police, Batala, Suhail Qasim Mir informed media that two police officers were arrested and they are placed under suspension.

The incident has been recorded on CCTV camera - <https://x.com/i/status/1953139434834268446>

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference – <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/repeatedly-punched-and-kicked-2-punjab-commandos-assault-journalist-suspended/articleshow/123156374.cms>

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