



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/EAST/OD/16/05/2025

May 27, 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 senior journalist Bijay Kumar Pradhan at Kultipali village, Balangir district, Odisha state on 25.05.2025 - Reg

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on 25.05.2025, senior journalist Bijay Kumar Pradhan visited Kultipali village, Balangir District of Odisha to report on allegations of corruption in a guard wall construction project. The project is reportedly worth Rs 10 Lakhs and the journalist reached the village to probe into the alleged irregularities. While the site is being filmed by him an attack was carried out by the local contractor Gajendra Dalai, Abinash Dalai, Aditya Jena, Gumara Nayak and other workers. His hands and legs were tied, and he was paraded through the village before being tied to a pole. Then he was beaten before the villagers, after which the attackers took the journalist to a village temple and forced him to take an oath stating that he will not report anything on this incident. His camera and two mobile phones were destroyed.

An FIR was registered at Puntala police station, Balangir District, Odisha by the journalist following the incident. The police has reportedly arrested Abinash Dalai, Aditya Jena, Gumara Nayak and one minor.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference – [Journalist assaulted in Odisha's Balangir; four arrested, key accused absconding](#)

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