



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

18/2025SM

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/EAST/OD/18/06/2025

05.06.2025

To
Justice Mr. 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 detention of renowned HRD Medha Patkar and others by Rayagada Police on 05 June 2025.

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on a protest march was organised by the Niyamgiri Surakshya Samithi at Sijimali, Kashipur on the eve of World Environment Day (05 June 2025). For which internationally renowned environmental activist Medha Patkar along with few other HRDs of Odisha were invited to participate in the protest march.

On 04.06.2025, The District Collector of Rayagada issued a prohibiting order against renowned HRDs Medha Patkar, Prafulla Samantaray, Narendra Mohanty, Lingaraj Azad and 21 others basing on the report of Superintendent of police Rayagada. The prohibiting order restricts the HRDs from entering or remaining present in Rayagada district for a period of two months from 04.06.2025. The order prevents them from participating in any form of protest or dharana in Rayagada District. **(Annexure 1)**

On 05.06.2025, at 04.30 AM HRD Medha Patkar along with Narendra Mohanty, Lingaraj Pradhan and Harikishan were taken into custody by the Rayagada police when they arrived at Rayagada Railway station. The HRDs were traveling to Kasipur village, Rayagada district, Odisha for attending a public rally against illegal bauxite mining in Siji Mali, Kasipur. When the HRDs asked about the order, the police showed the prohibitory order and informed them to leave Rayagada District. **(Annexure 2)** The HRDs are currently being escorted by the police out of Rayagada district. **(Annexure 3)**

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