



**HRDA/UA/South/TLG/04/04/2025**

April 10, 2025

To,

1. 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](mailto:chairnhrc@nic.in)
2. Mr. Indrajeet Kumar,  
National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Deputy Registrar,  
National Human Rights Commission,  
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,  
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi –110 023  
Email: [hrd-nhrc@nic.in](mailto:hrd-nhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

**Sub: Urgent Appeal for Action in case of arrest of two journalists by Cyber Crime Police, Hyderabad on 12 March 2025.**

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert!

HRD Alert - India is a forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavours to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are writing to express our concern regarding arbitrary arrest of journalists Revathi Pogadadanda, Thanvi Yadav on fabricated charges by Cyberabad police.

**About the Human Rights Defenders:**

- Revathi Pogadadanda (45), managing director of Pulse Digital News Network.
- Thanvi Yadav (25), Journalist and Reporter of Pulse Digital News Network.

**Source of Information:**

- In Communication with the other HRDs in the region
- Media Reports

**Perpetrators:**

Police officials of Cybercrime division, Hyderabad.

**Date of Incident:**

12 March 2025

**Place of Incident:**

Hyderabad, Telangana

**Background:**

The journalists Revathi and Tanvi interviewed a 70-year-old farmer from Telangana, the interview was published on their news channel and on 'X' handle 'Nippukodi' where the farmer made some remarks against the Chief Minister of Telangana.

**Details of the Incident:**

The First Information Report (FIR) has been filed under the Information Technology Act section 67 (transmitting obscene material) and sections 111 (organised crime), 61(2) (criminal conspiracy), 353(2) (spreading false information or rumours that incite hatred or ill will between groups), 352 (intentionally insulting someone to provoke a breach of peace) of Bharat Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) before Cyber Crime police at Hyderabad based on the complaints of a congress functionary.

The Journalists Revathi and Tanvi were arrested by the Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police from their residence in the early hours of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and they were produced before the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Nampally on the same day and then remanded to judicial custody at Special Prison for women at Chanchalguda, Hyderabad.

On 15 March 2025, the opposition leader commended the arrest of a journalist during an assembly session, where the Chief Minister responded by stating he would "Strip" and "Parade" those who use abusive language against him or his family in the name of political criticism.

On 17 March 2025, the journalist filed a bail application before the Judicial Magistrate and the court granted bail to the journalist on a personal bond of Rs 25,000/- and with a direction to appear before police twice a week.

HRDA strongly believes that the registration of FIR based on fabricated charges and the arrest of journalists is an act of reprisal for their activism as a journalist.

**Explanation of law:**

This amounts to a violation of multiple Constitutional rights that include freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a)), freedom to carry his profession as a journalist (Article 19(1)(g) and right to life and liberty (Article 21) without any fear of intimidation and harassment.

The Right to exercise freedom of Speech and Expression is enshrined under Article 19(a) of the Indian Constitution. The Right to freedom of opinion and expression encompasses three different aspects:

- 1) The right to hold opinions without interference,
- 2) The right to access to information and
- 3) The right to impart information and ideas of all kinds.

The Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 1999, also seeks to protect the monitoring and advocacy functions of defenders by recognizing their right to obtain and disseminate information relevant to the enjoyment of human rights. According to Article 12 (2) and (3) The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure, or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities, and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Appeal:**

We urge the Hon'ble Commission to take cognisance of the above case and urgently:

- Direct the Director General of Investigation of the NHRC to initiate a transparent, independent inquiry and submit the report to the NHRC.
- Exercise the power under section 12 (b) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 to intervene before the relevant court on behalf of journalists.
- Direct the Director General of the Police of Manipur to ensure the safety of HRD and his family and to protect them from further harassment by the police.

We hope to hear from you soon,

Yours Sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary