



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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HRDA/NHRC-SM/South/TN/51/09/2024

17 September 2024

To
Smt Vijayabarathi Shayani,
Acting Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi –110 023
Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Ms. Sayani,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of detention of 100 protestors by Usilampatti police in Tamil Nadu for staging a protest at Usilampatti Revenue Divisional Office demanding work for differently abled persons under MNREGA.

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on 2nd September, 2024 differently abled persons Usilampatti taluk (Alligundam, Uthappanayakanur and Keeripatti Panchayats), Tamil Nadu, staged a sit in protest at Usilampatti Revenue Divisional Office (RDO) office demanding work for the differently abled under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). According to [2013 Special Operations guidelines](#) of MGNREGA, the differently abled people must be given work according to their ability. The protestors demanded the revenue officials for work allotment, but Usilampatti police officials detained around 100 protestors and they were released in the evening on the same day.

The incident has been reported widely in the media and a link is shared here for your reference - [Differently abled people demand work under MGNREGA - The Hindu](#)

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