



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

No.32, Besant Road, Chokkikulam, Madurai - 625 002, Tamil Nadu, India.
P: +91-452-2531874 & 2539520 Fax: +91-452- 2531874 Mobile: 99943-68540
E.mail: hrda.india@gmail.com Web: www.hrdaindia.org

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January 10, 2020

To

Mr. Debindra Kundra

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Assistant
Registrar, National Human Rights Commission
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi – 110 023
Email: hrd-nhrc@nic.in

Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action- Uttar Pradesh: illegal arrest and detention of Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri by police in Lucknow – Regarding

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

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

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri who was illegally arrested and detained by Uttar Pradesh police in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh in the wake of peaceful protest against Citizenship Amendment Act and National Registry of Citizens. Before his arrest and detention the HRD was put under house arrest and later put in jail under fabricated charges in violation of his right to life and liberty guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Status of the Human Rights Defender

Mr. SR Darapuri (75 yrs) is a well-known ambedkarite and human rights activist. He served as an IPS Officer for more than 3 decades and was also a former IG. Darapuri has been an untiring campaigner of human rights, especially Dalit rights. After retiring from the police service, Darapuri had joined the All India People's Front (Radical), a political outfit. He had also contested the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Robertsganj. He has been a part of a number of fact-findings in cases of human rights violations of

Dalits, Muslims and members of downtrodden communities, public hearings on the implementation of various social welfare schemes like food security etc.

Source of Information on the Incident:

The Coordinator of HRDA for the North of India
The Coordinator of HRDA for Uttar Pradesh
Media Reports

The Perpetrators:

Uttar Pradesh Police, Lucknow

Date and Place of Incident:

December 20, 2019
Indra Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Details of the Incident:

According to information received, the UP police was camping before the house of Mr. SR Darapuri located at Indra Nagar since 8 am on December 20, 2019 morning. Around 11:45 am, police personnel from the nearby station came in a jeep and took Darapuri with them saying that they would let him leave after some questioning. But when he did not return for 2-3 hours and he could not be reached, the family filed a complaint by calling the police helpline. After some time, his son received a call from the adjacent Ghazipur police station that Darapuri is there and that he can come and meet him. When the family members went to meet him, they came to know that the police did not let Darapuri eat food throughout the day. At about 5 pm, he was given food and medicines brought from home. His son, Ved Kumar later got to know that he was shuttled between Gazipur and Hazratganj police stations. Darapuri was brought to Hazratganj police station, Lucknow at 1 am mid night (on December 21, 2019) when his son went again to give him food and medicine.

Mr. Darapuri was scheduled to address the press at 3 pm regarding the detention of lawyer Mohd. Shoaib, but he was himself detained by the police before he could speak to the media. He has been falsely charged under sections 147, 148, 149, 152, 307, 323, 504, 506, 332, 353, 188, 435, 436, 120-B, 427 of the Indian Penal Code, Sections 3, 4 of the Public Property Loss Prevention Act 1984 and Section 7 of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 1932. These include allegations ranging from inciting people to violence to murderous assault on the police. Lucknow Sessions Court on January 4, 2020 granted bail to Darapuri for his alleged role in violence during protest against the amended Citizenship law on December 19, 2019. The Uttar Pradesh Police could not

produce evidence against him when asked by the court. However Darapuri could be released only three days later as some formalities could not be completed,

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that this Hon'ble Commission to urgently:

- Order an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned case of illegal arrest and detention of Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri by police in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh;
- Take immediate and appropriate action against those who are responsible for filing criminal cases, illegal arrest and detention of Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri and give this assurance to the NHRC of India in writing immediately and urgently;
- Take necessary steps to ensure that the cases filed against Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri are withdrawn and defender is not harassed or intimidated or falsely implicated in future and give this assurance to the NHRC of India in writing immediately and urgently;
- Take all necessary measures to re-establish and guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of Dalit rights activist and human rights defender Mr. SR Darapuri in coordination with him;
- Put an end to all acts of attack and harassment of all human rights defenders like HRD Mr. SR Darapuri in Uttar Pradesh in particular and in the country in general to ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions;
- Takes steps to ensure that the Government of India stops hounding and targeting human rights defenders with coercion and intimidation in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere and immediately stop the use of repressive legislations to clampdown on human rights defenders.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,
Yours sincerely,



(Henri Tiphagne)

National Working Secretary