



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

No. 555, West Cross 4th Street, K.K.Nagar, Madurai - 625 020, Tamil Nadu, India.

Mobile: 99943-68540

E-mail: hrda.india@gmail.com Web: www.hrdaindia.org

HRDA/NHRC-SM/NE/MPR/05/01/2024

January 09, 2024

To
Justice (retd.) Mr. AK Mishra
Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,
Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,
New Delhi –110 023
Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Respected Justice Mishra,

Subject: Requesting to initiate suo moto proceedings in the case of abduction of Akhu Chingangbam by unidentified gunmen from his home in Imphal, Manipur on December 29, 2023.

We are writing to you to bring to your kind attention that on December 29, 2023, a renowned HRD and musician Akhu Chingangbam was attacked and kidnapped at gunpoint in Manipur.

He is a social activist and a former physicist; collaborated with other artists and initiated various music projects for peace and harmony. He is also the founder of the folk-rock band Imphal Talkies band is known for singing protest songs about politics, insurgency, human rights issues and racial attacks across the north-eastern states.

The HRD's house in Khurai was attacked at 10.30 am by unidentified persons who were armed, they entered the home and kidnapped the HRD at gunpoint. He was later released 20 km away from his house in Imphal West District.

The incident has been reported widely in the press, and a link is shared here for your reference – [Manipur Imphal Talkies Singer Akhu Chingangbam Kidnapped By Gunmen From Home, Released Later \(ndtv.com\)](#)

We believe that the attack on HRD by unidentified gunmen is an act of reprisal against the HRD's activism as artist and social activist.

Every person has a right to life and liberty enshrined under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution 1950, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966. The Right to life includes the right against harassment and threats. The targeted attack on the HRD amounts to a violation of life and liberty.

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders 1999 states the following:

- 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.*"

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.

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