

LETTERS

POLICE ATROCITY

I have been working in Jharkhand as a Human Rights Defender since 2004 and presently I'm also a respective member of an autonomous body—the “Assessment and Monitoring Authority” under the Planning Commission of India constituted by the Government of India. However, I have been facing the police atrocities.

On June 5, 2011, I had gone to participate in a Rally and Mass meeting against police atrocity, which was organized by the “Mundari Khutkati Ewam Bhuihari Parishad”, Khunti at Kachary Maidan, Khunti of Jharkhand, where more than 3000 villagers had gathered. And more than 50 people were the victims of police atrocities.

The Rally began at 1 O'clock in the afternoon from the Kachari Maidan, Khunti and proceeded towards Khunti Chauk and the villagers started shouting slogans against the police atrocities. After hearing slogans against the police, the Police Inspector of Khunti police station Mr P K Mishra and his guards stopped the villagers saying that they should not shout slogans against the police.

However, the villagers continued their rally but stopped three times. The police wanted to block the Rally and asked the villagers to go back to their villages. The villagers were not ready to do so. Since I was part of the Rally therefore I intervened on the matter and told the Inspector Mr P K Mishra that he should not seize the democratic rights of the villagers.

I introduced myself and showed him my visiting card as a member of the “Assessment and Monitoring Authority” under the Planning Commission of India but he threw my card on the ground, humiliated me and threatened me saying, “shut up! If you don't stop, I'll tear down you and dry up; I don't bother about losing my job”. Four body guards of the Inspector got down from the vehicle and abused me and had started beating me but when the crowd intervened they stopped. The rally continued and backed to the Kachahari Maidan and mass meeting was started.

Amidst, I met Deputy Commissioner of Khunti Mr Rakesh Kumar and also Dy Superintendent of Police Khunti Mr Anil Shanker and complained them about the incident. I also informed the Superintendent of Police (Khunti) Mr. Manoj Kaushik about the incident. They assured me for taking action against the Inspector but nothing has been done so far.

Gladson Dungdung, Jharkhand

ACTIVISTS ATTACKED

Former MLA of Madhya Pradesh and social activist Sunilam was recently attacked by 15 goondas in Chhindwara district (M.P.) Before the attack he was involved in mobilisation of peaceful protest by villagers adversely affected by land acquisition for two controversial projects in this area. Aradhna Bhargava, a leader of project affected farmers, was also attacked at the same time. Both activists were seriously injured. Strong steps should be taken to punish the attackers. Security should be provided to social activists. At the same time it is important that the genuine problems of project affected people are resolved in a just way.

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