

URGENT ACTION

ADIVASI VILLAGERS ALLEGEDLY BEATEN BY POLICE

Adivasi villagers in Chhattisgarh, central India, fear further repercussions by the authorities after allegations by 25 people that they were beaten by police while protesting the arrests of other villagers on 26 November. Several people have been hospitalized with serious injuries, and the police have refused to register an official complaint.

On 26 November, 26 Adivasi villagers were allegedly taken away from their homes in villages in Sukma, Chhattisgarh by the state police. Villagers claim that when others protested, 25 of the protestors were beaten by the police. Of the villagers who were taken away, 11 were released the next day, and 15 were placed in pre-trial detention for allegedly damaging public property.

Local activists say four of the people beaten have been admitted to the district hospital in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh with serious injuries, including bone fractures. Two women said they were beaten by the police on their legs and thighs with bamboo sticks when they demanded to know why they were taking away men from their family.

The protesting villagers reported the incident at the Kukanar police station in Sukma, but the police have refused to register an official complaint, as required by Indian law. The Superintendent of Police, Sukma district, told Amnesty International India that the police had not registered a complaint because they had not beaten the villagers. Local activists have also reported that the injured villagers were denied free medical care, despite being entitled under Indian law because of their status as living below the poverty line (BPL), and therefore had to pay for their treatment.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the Chhattisgarh authorities to investigate allegations of excessive use of force by the police on the 25 people, and bring those responsible to justice;
- Urging the authorities to ensure that the injured Adivasi villagers receive the free medical care they are entitled to under Indian law, and that the villagers are not subject to any repercussions.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 19 JANUARY 2015 TO:

Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

Raman Singh
C M House, Civil Line. Raipur,
Chhattisgarh, India
Phone: +91 771 2331000 (English or
Hindi only)
Fax: +91 771 2221306, 2331001
Salutation: Dear Sir

Superintendent of Police

D Shraavan,
Office of the Superintendent of Police
Sukma Police District.,
Chhattisgarh, India
Phone: +91 9479190085 (English or
Hindi only)
Fax: +91 771- 4240077
Salutation: Dear Sir

And copies to:

Chairman, National Human Rights
Commission
K.G. Balakrishnan
Manav Adhikar Bhawan
Block-C
GPO Complex, INA
New Delhi, India
Phone: +91 11 24651330 (English or
Hindi only)
Fax: +91 11 24651329
Email: <http://nhrc.nic.in/complaints.htm>
Salutation: Dear Sir

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2005, a number of social and political activists and human rights defenders in central India have faced false charges and imprisonment for highlighting the human rights situation in the region. Excessive use of force by the police and lack of access to justice have been major causes of concern. Members of the general population are frequently affected in the region by the ongoing violence between security forces and members of banned Maoist groups.

Name: Villagers in Sukma district

Gender m/f: Both

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