



# NCW for stern action against cops

*NHRC also serves notice to chief secy and DGP, seeks detailed report of case*

**MANOJ ANAND**  
GUWAHATI, SEPT. 18

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Wednesday directed Assam police to take stern action against police officers and constables involved in stripping and torturing a pregnant woman and her two sisters. The women were picked up by police on September 9 in connection with a case registered against their brother for allegedly abducting a Hindu woman, the media report said.

The National Human Rights Commission of India also on Wednesday

served notices to chief secretary and the DGP, Assam calling for a detailed report in the said case.

The NCW, which took suo moto cognisance of the incident, condemned the treatment meted out to the women. The commission has asked Assam director general of police to take up the matter urgently and ensure that the accused officials are given stern punishment, the NCW said in a statement.

It said it is "anguished" by such alleged misconduct on part of the police officials.

The police officials, the NCW said, ill-treated the

## ASSAM TORTURE

▶ **The three sisters have accused the Assam police of custodial torture, including being stripped, kicked and beaten with lathis**

women not involved in any crime but suspected to know the whereabouts of an alleged criminal.

The role of police officers is to help uphold law and order impartially, and protect people, especially women, it said.

The Assam State

Commission for Women has also taken cognisance and its chairperson Sikimiki Talukdar visited the victims and assured of all protection to them. While asking for stern measures against police officers, she said that suspension of the police officers was not the punishment.

Referring the torture marks on the body of three victims, she said that it was simply the inhuman act of police and they need to get stringent punishment to set an example for others too.

Assam DGP Kuladhar Saikia told this newspaper

that they had ordered an enquiry by deputy inspector general (DIG) rank officer who has already started the investigation. "We have asked him to submit the report at the earliest. We have also registered a criminal FIR against in-charge of the police outpost Mahendra Sarma and constable Binita Boro," he said admitting that it came to their notice only after the victims appeared before the media.

It is significant that victims said that they were forced to break their silence when police authorities allegedly did not act for almost 10 days.





# Irate mob protests torture of sisters

**GUWAHATI:** Tension prevailed in Assam's Darrang district as an irate mob on Wednesday, gheraoed the Burha police outpost demanding arrest of the police official allegedly involved in the assault and torture of three sisters, police said.

Nearly four hundred men and women gheraoed the police outpost shouting slogans against its suspended in-charge Mahendra Sarma, demanding his immediate arrest and dismissal from service.

Senior police officials of the district have rushed to the area to defuse the situation, but tension continues to prevail in the area, a police official said here.

The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) also staged a protest in Kalgachia area of the district demanding immediate arrest of Sarma.

On the other hand, members of the All Assam Yuva Brahmin Parishad staged a demonstration at Mangaldoi demanding that Sarma's suspension be immediately revoked as the

"police official was doing his duty in trying to nab a person involved in a case of love jihad".

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) have taken suo moto cognisance of the incident and directed the state authorities to take stern action against the culprits.

The NHRC has asked the Assam Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police to submit a detailed report on the alleged torture of three women inside a police station in the state.

The Commission has asked the Chief Secretary and DGP to furnish the report within four weeks and said that the report must have medical treatment record of the victim and present status of her health condition.

The rights panel also wanted to know whether prior permission of the Judicial Magistrate was taken by the police to arrest the women victims during night of September 8, 2019.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has ordered an inquiry into the alleged assault and torture of three women inside a police outpost by a police by Central Western Range DIG-Brojenjit Singh.

The women were picked up from their home in Guwahati in connection with a kidnapping case filed against their brother and brought to Burha police outpost of the district on September nine last, the Superintendent of Police of Darrang Amrit Bhuyan informed.

The three women were later released after the brother and the woman he had allegedly kidnapped surrendered at the police outpost.

The women, however, later alleged in a complaint to the SP, that they were stripped, assaulted and tortured by Sarma.

They also claimed before the media that the eldest of the sister, who was two months pregnant, had miscarried following the assault. (Agencies)

## Two policemen suspended

**From Our Correspondent**

**GUWAHATI:** Assam's Director General of Police, Kuladhar Saikia, informed that two police personnel had been suspended and criminal cases have been registered against them in the wake of allegation that a pregnant woman and her two sisters were stripped and beaten at Burha Police outpost in Darrang District on September 9. The DGP said investigation was under way and the inquiry report would be submitted within seven days.

Sub-Inspector (Unarmed Branch) Mahendra Sarmah, in-charge of, Burha outpost in Darrang district and woman police constable (WPC/167) Binita Boro of Darrang DEF who were reportedly involved in the torture case have been placed under suspension with immediate effect vide Sipajhar PS Case No.757/19 U/S 342/354/354(B)/325/506/34 IPC.



## असम: पुलिस ने 3 बहनों को कपड़े उतारकर पीटा, एक का गर्भपात हुआ, लोगों ने पुलिस चौकी का घेराव किया

एजेंसी| गुवाहाटी. असम के दारंग जिले में तीन बहनों को हिरासत में कपड़े उतारकर पीटे जाने की घटना को लेकर बुधवार को लोगों ने पुलिस चौकी का घेराव किया। लोगों ने घटना के लिए जिम्मेदार बुरहा पुलिस चौकी प्रभारी अधिकारी महेंद्र शर्मा के खिलाफ एफआईआर दर्ज करने की मांग की। इससे इलाके में तनाव की स्थिति है। वहीं घटना को लेकर राज्य सरकार ने चौकी प्रभारी और एक महिला पुलिसकर्मी को निलंबित कर दिया है। तीनों बहनों की शिकायत के बाद यह कार्रवाई की गई है। इस बीच राष्ट्रीय महिला आयोग और राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने घटना

को लेकर राज्य सरकार को नोटिस जारी कर रिपोर्ट मांगी है। रिपोर्टों के अनुसार घटना के बारे में शिकायत कराने वाली तीनों बहनों में से एक गर्भवती थी। घटना तब सामने आई जब तीनों बहनों ने एक स्थानीय असमिया समाचार चैनल को अपनी घटना बताई। शिकायत दर्ज कराने वाली बहन को उसके पति और दो बहनों के साथ 9 सितंबर को गुवाहाटी के सतगांव इलाके में उनके घर से पुलिस ले गई थी। पुलिस उन्हें बुरहा पुलिस चौकी में नंगा कर पीटा। यह कार्रवाई इन बहनों के भाई के खिलाफ एक हिंदू महिला के अपहरण करने की एफआईआर के बाद की गई थी।



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## *KPs victims of Pak terror; UNHRC, NHRC should intervene: KPC*

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Sept 18: Kashmiri Pandit Conference (KPC) through a letter invited attention of United Nations Human Rights commission (UNHRC) National Human Right Commission (NHRC) and other rights bodies towards microscopic ethnic minority of Kashmiri Pandits community which is in an utter shambles at this time and has been facing miserable situation for the last 30 years.

The letter released to press here today said "Our ethos, culture and heritage is sought to be completely destroyed by the terrorists, materially and morally sponsored and supported by Pakistan".

The KP community is reduced to minuscule minority from 15% in 1947 to 01% at present by cultural aggression

time to time and now this small community consists of about 3,50,000 Kashmiri Pandits live in abysmal and appalling conditions, 'as refugees', in camps and non-camps in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country. The mass exodus of the community in 1990 was followed by sustained terror, rapes, murder, loot and kidnappings at the hands of Pak terrorists and its agents in the Valley, it added.

The letter further said about 1,500 Kashmiri Pandits, including women and children, were brutally killed, about 400 temples and other religious shrines were demolished, damaged and burnt down and 30,000 agricultural families deprived of their lands, 20,000 business establishments looted and devastated, more than 30,000 houses reduced to ashes, looted and other properties left behind have been forcibly occupied.

KPC, a representative organisation of victim Pandits, has appealed to Chairman UNHRC, NHRC and other rights bodies to listen this hapless community, raise voice and mobilize the world opinion against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir and about its dreaded consequences. The unholy proxy war which is fought by Pakistan against the innocent people of Kashmir must end at the earliest and also the cognizance of plight of the Kashmiri Pandit community who were hounded out from Kashmir and are at present living in sub-human conditions and going through untold miseries and sufferings be also taken.

This letter of KPC also sought attention of UNHRC towards human right violations and miserable condition of minorities like, Hindus, Sikhs, Christians Ahmedyas and others in Pakistan.