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Assam cops on 'encounter spree': Plaint filed with NHRC

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/assam-cops-on-encounter-spree-plaint-filed-with-nhrc/articleshow/84333438.cms

A Delhi-based lawyer hailing from Assam has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Assam police over a series of encounters that have taken place ever since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago. He also urged the rights body to take cognisance and institute an inquiry into these incidents. Arif Jwadder in his complaint to the rights body on Saturday said 'small-time' criminals were being shot at by police and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee from police custody after snatching weapons". Pointing out that over 20 such encounters had taken place recently, Jwadder said in his complaint that most of the people at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers. He added that a few of them have died on the spot which is a "violation of human rights".

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NHRC issues conditional summon to Odisha chief secretary over plight of Indravati displaced

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/nhrc-issues-conditional-summonto-odisha-chief-secretary-over-plight-of-indravati-displaced/articleshow/84316860.cms The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued conditional summons to Odisha chief secretary to appear before it on August 23 along with requisite reports on the steps taken to comply the directions passed since 2013 to ensure the basic human rights of displaced people in Indravati hydroelectric power project. The rights panel passed this order on July 6 after hearing a petition filed by human rights lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy on November 15, 2016. This complaint pertains to the allegations of the complainant regarding denial of basic amenities to the people of around 100 villages in Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi and Koraput districts due to this power project. The commission has been hearing the case since November 24, 2016 and issuing directions to different government authorities. Recently, the complainant had urged the rights panel to take up the matter with the chief secretary for unreasonable delay to comply with the recommendations of the NHRC's Special Rapporteur regarding the project covering Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts and to send a team of officials to conduct enquiry in Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts related to this project. Last direction was issued in May this year. The commission has observed that despite direction and subsequent reminder, the chief secretary has failed to submit the requisite report till date. "Taking serious view of the nonresponsive attitude of the aforesaid authority, the commission directs its registry to issue summons to the chief secretary to appear before it on August 23 along with requisite reports. If the commission receives the requisite reports on or before August 16, the personal appearance of the concerned authority shall stand dispensed with," said the order.

Page No. 6, Size:(10.83)cms X (9.10)cms.

पीड़ितों के घावों पर मरहम

बंगाल के चुनावी हिंसा के विवाद थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहे हैं। केंद्र राज्य और राज्यपाल के बीच विवादित हुई हिंसा के मुद्दे में कोलकाता हाई कोर्ट ने सभी पीड़ितों के केस दर्ज करने के निर्देश देकर न्याय दिलाने का भरोसा दिलाया है। उससे लोगों का विश्वास और दृढ़ होगा। अब जल्द ही मामलों की वास्तविकता सामने लाई जानी चाहिए, जिससे ममता की मंशा उजागर हो सके। पश्चिम बंगाल में चुनावी हिंसा चर्चा का विषय रही है। केंद्र के लाख प्रयासों के बाद भी राज्य में परंपरागत हिंसा नहीं रुक पाई। ममता बनर्जी के शपथ लेने के बावजूद हिंसा का न थमना आशंकाओं से भरा रहा है। पीड़ित लोगों ने उन्हें सुरक्षा नहीं मुहैया कराने की बात कही थी। इस मामले को लेकर राज्यपाल भी तीसरा पक्ष बन गए थे। में खूनी संघर्ष का पटाक्षेप कोलकाता हाईकोर्ट की सख्ती से हुआ है। कोर्ट की ममता बनर्जी की गलतियों को संज्ञान लेते हुए याचिकाकर्ताओं को जायज टहराया है। इस फैसले के बाद राज्य के सभी हिंसा पीड़ितों के केस दर्ज हो सकेंगे। हिंसा की जांच हाई कोर्ट के निर्देश पर गठित राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने की और उसी की रिपोर्ट को आधार मानते हुए कोर्ट का आदेश आया है।

- अमृतलाल मारू, दसई, धार, मप्र

Page No. 8, Size:(9.93)cms X (6.52)cms.

'Encounter spree' plaint filed with NHRC

Delhi-based lawyer hailing from Assam has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Assam police over a series of encounters that have taken place ever since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago, reports **Rokibuz Zaman**. He also urged the rights body to take cognisance and institute an inquiry into these incidents. Arif Jwadder in his complaint to the rights body on Saturday said 'small-time' criminals were being shot at by police and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee from police custody after snatching weapons". Pointing out that over 20 such encounters had taken place recently, Jwadder said in his complaint that most of the people at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers. He added that a few of them have died on the spot which is a "violation of human rights".

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Rokibuz Zaman TNN

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Arif Jwadder said 'small-time' criminals were being shot at by police and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee from police custody after snatching weapons". Pointing out that over 20 such encounters had taken place recently, Jwadder said that most at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers.

POLICE | KILLINGS | Delhi-based advocate from Assam lodges formal complaint v

ssam cops on 'encounter spree', NHR

MANOJ ANAND | DC **GUWAHATI, JULY 11**

The issue of ongoing frequent encounters of Assam police with criminals have reached National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as a Delhi-based advocate from Assam on Saturday lodged a formal complaint with the commission against the Assam police "on an encounter spree" since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago.

In his complaint which was lodged with the NHRC on Saturday, Advocate Arif Jwadder alleged Assam police was shooting down criminals frequently and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee snatching pistols".

Pointing out that more than 20 such encounters had taken place so far and most of the persons at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers with a few hav-

THE LAWYER points out in his complaint that more than 20 such encounters had taken place so far and most of the persons at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers with a few having died on the spot.

ing died on the spot, he also referred Assam Chief Minister's remark at the police conference where in the Chief Minister said that police should shoot at alleged criminals at legs which is permitted by the

"Following the stateof the Chief ment Minister, now police are staging fake encounters with impunity," Jwadder alleged in his complaint.

He also listed 10 cases of encounters where the alleged criminals were either killed or injured. It includes Bubu Konwar, wanted for several crimes including murder, and sacked Railway Protecti Special Force sub-inspe tor Kanwaldeep Sin Sidhu wanted for abdu ing a businessman. Th were gunned down on M 23 and July 3.

Alleged cattle smuggle Shah Jamal, Mozamn and Haque Sorar Chinnai were shot in t leg between May 31 a July 2.

Alleged drug deal Jaitul Kabir and Syed A a 65-year-old arrested f rape and murder of minor, met a similar fa

देश में समान नागरिक संहिता लागू की जाए

हरिद्वार | संवाददाता

राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार संरक्षण समिति की एक बैठक समिति के कार्यालय पर हुई। जिसमें देश में समान नागरिक संहिता पर चर्चा की गई। राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष ई. मधुसूदन आर्य ने कहा कि देश में समान नागरिक संहिता लागू होनी चाहिए।

इसमें मानवाधिकार के हनन के मामले कम होंगे। जैसे एक देश एक राशन कार्ड लागू किया गया। यह प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का सराहनीय कदम है। इस प्रकार पूरे देश में समान नागरिक संहिता लागू होनी चाहिए।

एसआर गुप्ता ने कहा कि हमारे समाज में महिला-पुरुष में जो भेदभाव व्याप्त है वह रीति नहीं बल्कि मनुष्य द्वारा शुरू की गई कुरीति है, धार्मिक प्रथा नहीं बल्कि इंसान द्वारा द्वारा शुरू की गई कुप्रथा है और कुरीतियों को धर्म, मजहब से जोड़ना गलत है। बैठक में अन्नपूर्णा, रेखा नेगी, कमला जोशी, सतीश अग्रवाल, डॉ. विशाल गर्ग, जितेन्द्र कमार शर्मा, विगम कुमार गर्ग, इं. एसएन शर्मा, गोपाल शर्मा, सुरेन्द्र कुमार ठाकुर, प्रवीण अग्रवाल, प्रभात आर्य आदि उपस्थित रहे।

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Guwahati: A Delhi-based lawyer hailing from Assam has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against Assam police over a series of encounters that have taken place ever since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago. He urged the rights body to take cognisance and institute an inquiry into these incidents.

Arif Jwadder said 'small-time' criminals were being shot at by police and the reason cited for such "fake encounters" was that they tried to "flee from police custody after snatching weapons". Pointing out that over 20 such encounters had taken place recently, Jwadder said that most at the receiving end were alleged drug dealers and cattle smugglers.

Page No. 6, Size:(8.61)cms X (8.53)cms.

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HINDU, Chennai, 12.7.2021 Page No. 12, Size:(30.53)cms X (15.81)cms.

Assam Police on 'encounter spree', says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A Delhi-based advocate from Assam has lodged a complaint with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) against the Assam Police, which he said was "on an encounter spree" since the Himanta Biswa Sarma-led government took charge two months ago.

This followed a notice served by the Assam Human Rights Commission to (AHRC) the Principal Secretary of the State's Home and Political Department to probe the circumstances leading to the death and injuries of suspected militants and alleged criminals. The

AHRC has sought an action taken report within a more from July 7.

In his complaint on J 10, Arif Jwadder said alleg small-time criminals wheing shot and the reast cited for such "fake encorters" was that they tried "flee from police custom snatching pistols".

Fr. Stan's death brings justice system



SIDDHARTH LAMBA

PROJECT OFFICER, COMMONWEALTH
HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

But what should really unsettle India's judiciary is that an undertrial died while in court's custody. Whether an 84-year-old human rights defender, unable to eat or walk without help, should have remained incarcerated in his last days is a question that will haunt the judiciary. Whether anyone who is presumed innocent should die of illness in custody is a question that can perhaps redeem the judiciary, if it fixes accountability on a case-to-case basis.

UMAN rights defender Fr. Stan Swamy (84) breathed his last on July 5 as an undertrial prisoner. He died awaiting the Bombay High Court's decision on his bail plea filed more than a month ago.

Fr. Stan had sought medical bail after his arrest in October 2020 stating that he was suffering from a neuro-degenerative disease and other health complications. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) opposed Stan's medical bail plea stating that there was no "conclusive proof" of his ill-health. Nothing more remains to be said about this baseless opposition as he died on ventilator support in a hospital fighting pulmonary infection, Parkinson's disease and Covid-19 complications.

But what should really unsettle India's judiciary is that an undertrial died while in court's custody: an octogenarian rights activist suffering from Parkinson's and Covid. Whether an 84-year-old internationally recognised human rights defender, unable to eat or walk without help, should have remained incarcerated in his last days is a question that will haunt the Indian judiciary. Whether anyone who is presumed innocent should die of illness in custody is a question that can perhaps redeem the judiciary, if it fixes accountability of those responsible for the tragedy on a case-to-case basis.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report says that in 2019, 1,466 prisoners died of various 'illness' and 78 died due to 'ageing' in judicial custody; both are categorised as natural deaths. It is not just unfortunate but horrific to call



TRAGIC: Fr. Stan Swamy died awaiting justice. This should force courts to introspect, REUTERS

a death 'natural' if the ailing person dies in custody — away from his/her close ones. The words of Fr. Stan, "Whatever happens to me, I would like to be with my own," resonate.

Indeed, in Sri Rama Murthy vs State of Karnataka, the apex court had observed that prisoners do not have equal access to medical facilities as free citizens and their living conditions in prisons make them more prone to health hazards.

What incriminates the State and judiciary in custodial deaths is the crumbling medical infrastructure. According to the NCRB's 2019 data, there is one medical professional for 243 prisoners in India. The overall medical staff vacancy in Indian prisons stands at a staggering 41%. A meagre Rs 5 per prisoner per day is spent on their medical needs. Despite several recommendations of jail reform committees and a pletho-

ra of court directions, these figures lay bare the murderous neglect of the State towards prisoners — a wide majority of whom are innocent in the eyes of the law.

Advocate Mihir Desai alleged medical negligence against the Taloja jail authorities for not providing adequate treatment to Fr. Stan on time. The death of this rights defender reflects Taloja Central Jail's neglect of prisoners, especially during the pandemic, despite extensive media coverage of the issue. Family members and lawyers of other prisoners have alleged mistreatment and violation of rights at Taloja jail; these too have been widely reported. Pleading for interim bail, Fr. Stan had told the High Court on May 21, 2021: "Taloja jail brought me to a situation where I can neither write nor go for a walk by myself."

In May this year, in the middle of the second wave of the pandemic, only three ayurv for Taloja j; tion of more was in clear (retd) Dr S tee's ree required " experts... to

hours, every Currently, more prist capacity. T deaths acro have taken of allegation serious view rights may charges aga the Bhima

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Plight of Indravati displaced NHRC summons CS for not complying with orders

RAJESH BEHERA ■
BHUBANESWAR

 T^{aking} a serious view of the non responsive attitude of the Chief Secretary, Odisha in submission of replies, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on July 6 issued summons to him to appear before the Commission on August 23 along with requisite reports on the steps taken to comply with the directions passed since 2013 to ensure basic human rights of the displaced people in Indravati hydro-electric power project. The NHRC passed the order on a petition filed by civil rights lawyer-cum-Supreme Court lawyer Radhakanta Tripathy. The petitioner alleged that the State Government had denied the basic amenities to the villagers of around 100 villages belonging to Nabarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Malkangiri and Koraput districts due to the Indravati project. Tripathy requested the NHRC to take up matter with the Chief Secretary

of the State for unreasonable delay to comply with recommendations of the Special Rapporteur with regard to the project covering Kalahandi and Nabarangpur districts and to send a team of officials to conduct an inquiry of the area of the project including Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts related to Indravati project. The NHRC transmitted the rejoinder of Tripathy to the

Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha for submission of additional report in the light of the same. The Commission

observed that despite direction and subsequent reminder, the Chief Secretary failed to submit the requisite report till date.



HINDU, Bangalore, 12.7.2021 Page No. 10, Size:(30.33)cms X (10.95)cms.

Assam Police on 'encounter spree', says

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