



# ASIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

19 Floor, Go-Up Commercial Building, 998 Canton Road  
Kowloon, Hong Kong . Tel: +(852) 2698-6339 . Fax: +(852) 2698-6367  
E-mail: ahrchk@ahrchk.org . Web: www.ahrchk.net

March 10, 2009

Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya  
Special Rapporteur on the situation  
of human rights defenders  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

Fax: 41 22 917 9006 (ATTN: SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS)

Dear Ms. Sekaggya,

## **Re: Seeking protection for Mr. Ajeet Singh, President of Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan, Varanasi, India**

I am writing this to seek your intervention for the protection of an Indian human rights activist, Mr. Ajeet Singh, who is the president of Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan of S-8/395, Khajuri Colony, Varanasi – 221002 (UP), India. (Mbl: 91+9235556060). Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan is an organisation which works particularly for the rescue and protection of minors and women who are used for the sex trade and trafficking.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan made an application to the Allahabad District Administration requesting police assistance. The Chief Development Officer (CDO), Allahabad ordered police assistance for rescuing a number children and women held in several brothels in the vicinity. The City Magistrate directed the police to accompany Mr. Ajeet Singh to rescue the women and children detained in Allahabad City.

On the basis of the instructions of the City Magistrate along with the police team, Mr. Ajeet Singh and his group reached the red light area near Merganj in the evening and rescued 20 traffic victims from the brothels. The police thereafter filed a recovery memo – First Information Report (FIR) regarding 17 of the persons who had been rescued. The other three seemed to have been allowed to escape to unknown places.

The local police refused to cooperate during this operation. While the volunteers pointed out many places where children are being confined the police did not enter several of these locations, nor was any action taken against traffickers and brothel keepers.

Mr. Ajeet Singh was threatened, harassed and abused by the local police and they even threatened to kill him in a police encounter or implicate him in many criminal cases. Some of his assistants are also said to have been assaulted. Two Hindi dailies published small news articles trying to fabricate charges against him, probably at the instigation of those who are involved in trafficking.

He fears that either the police will implicate him in some fabricated charges and arrest him or that some other physical harm may befall him by the combined effort of some local police officers and the organisers of the trafficking.

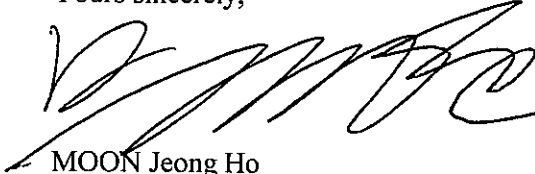
Mr. Ajeet Singh has given permission to divulge his name and in any communication with the government you are permitted to use his information.

We request your urgent intervention for the protection of Mr. Ajeet Singh and others of Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan who have done admirable work for the protection of trafficked children and women and who, as a result of their actions are facing similar threats.

An open letter written by the Asian Human Rights Commission to Ms. Mayawati, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, India, seeking her assistance for the rescue operation is also attached.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,



MOON Jeong Ho  
Programme Officer  
Asian Human Rights Commission



**[AHRC Open Letter] INDIA: Allahabad police must provide immediate assistance to rescue women and children from brothels in the city**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 6, 2009  
AHRC-OLT-004-2009

**An Open Letter to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh by the Asian Human Rights Commission**

Ms. Mayawati  
Chief Minister  
Chief Minister's Secretariat  
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh  
INDIA

Fax: +91 522 223 9234  
Email: [csup@up.nic.in](mailto:csup@up.nic.in)

Dear Madam:

**INDIA: Allahabad police must provide immediate assistance to rescue women and children from brothels in the city**

The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) is informed that Guria, a human rights organisation working in Uttar Pradesh against human trafficking is waiting for police assistance since the past four hours to rescue women and children from brothels in Allahabad city.

Guria has informed the AHRC that today, on an application filed to the Allahabad district administration requesting for police assistance, the Chief Development Officer (CDO), Allahabad, has ordered police assistance for Guria's work. The order made at about 10:30 am Indian time, has categorically directed the City Magistrate to accompany a team of police officers under the guidance of Mr. Ajeet Singh of Guria to rescue women and children illegally detained in brothels within Allahabad city.

The AHRC is informed that since 10:30, the City Magistrate and Guria's volunteers are waiting for the local police to provide assistance. Guria has informed the AHRC that the Superintendent of Police, Allahabad City, has been delaying police assistance on pretences as the police require more time to gather; there is no fuel in the police vehicles and so on.

It must be a matter of shame for the state administration to maintain a police force in one the most important cities of the country, without enough fuel to deploy the force to prevent a serious crime. The AHRC is certain that the Chief Minister's office would not allow reported cases of serious crimes to escape detection on the ruse of logistical requirements.

The Superintendent of Police has also informed Guria that they could manage the required personnel only by 7:00 pm today, consciously ignoring the fact that the police cannot under ordinary circumstances, enter a house to conduct a search after 7 pm.

Guria and the AHRC are aware that in the past, the local police have made similar excuses, to give the brothel keepers enough time to remove the women and children from the brothels and further to destroy any evidence of forced prostitution.

The AHRC request you to immediately take appropriate measures so that police assistance is provided without any further delay to comply with the CDO's order

Yours sincerely,

Bijo Francis  
South Asia Desk  
Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong

*Copies to:*

1. Mr. P. Chidambaram  
Home Minister  
North Block, New Delhi 110 001

INDIA

Fax: + 91 11 23093750 / 23092763

2. Director General of Police

1-Tilak Marg, Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh

INDIA

Fax: + 91 522 220 6120 / 220 6174

3. District Magistrate

Allahabad

Uttar Pradesh

INDIA

Fax: + 91 532 264 0290

Posted on 2009-03-06