



सूचना के जन अधिकार का राष्ट्रीय अभियान

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLES' RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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Mr. Ashok Gehlot
Chief Minister
Government of Rajasthan

January 4, 2022

Dear Mr. Gehlot,

Subject- Regarding attack on RTI user Amraram Godara

We are writing to you regarding the horrific attack on Amraram Godara in Rajasthan's Barmer district on December 21. As per media reports and a fact finding carried out by lawyers and social activists, Amra Ram had filed RTI applications and exposed corruption in several schemes and programs including the MGNREGS, government housing schemes in the village and the Panchayati Raj system.

He had brought several cases of irregularities to the notice of appropriate authorities and had been facing threats from vested interests. As per reports, he had approached the Police for protection against the same accused involved in the attack on him on December 21, but there was no response from the authorities. He was brutally attacked with sticks and rods and nails were hammered into his legs resulting in grievous injuries.

We are aware that a SIT has been formed by CID-CB to probe the attack. We urge that the probe be completed in a time-bound manner and action be taken against all accused. Further, we urge the government to:

1. Set up a probe team either under the state's Lokayukta or a retired judge of the High Court to probe the complaints made by Amraram regarding corruption and irregularities in government schemes in a time-bound manner and make public the inquiry report.
2. Suo Motu disclose and give wide publicity to the information which was sought under the RTI Act by Amraram as this would be the best deterrent for vested interests attempting to silence whistleblowers.
3. As the Central government has failed to operationalise the Whistleblowers Protection Act passed by Parliament in 2014 since till date it has not made rules for it, we urge the Government of Rajasthan to provide protection to whistleblowers by adopting a state level whistleblowers protection law.

We hope that the government will ensure time-bound accountability and justice in the matter. RTI users and whistleblowers play a crucial role in public interest and therefore it is the obligation of the state to provide protection and take firm action against those who attack or harm whistleblowers.

Thank you,

Nikhil Dey, Anjali Bhardwaj, Venkatesh Nayak, Rakesh Dubbudu, Pankti Jog, Pradip Pradhan,
Dr. Shaikh, Bhaskar Prabhu, Rolly Shivhare, Amrita Johri

(On behalf of the National Campaign for Peoples' Right to Information)

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Chief Information Commissioner, Rajasthan State Information Commission