



## सूचना के जन अधिकार का राष्ट्रीय अभियान

### NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEOPLES' RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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Mr. Nitish Kumar  
Chief Minister  
Government of Bihar

April 8, 2022

Dear Mr. Kumar,

***Subject- Regarding urgent need to set up an inquiry under a retired judge in the matter of the murder of RTI Activist Bipin Agarwal and the subsequent death of his 14-year old son Rohit by suicide***

We are writing to you regarding the recent death by suicide of Rohit, 14-year old son of RTI activist Bipin Agarwal, in Motihar, East Champaran, Bihar.

Rohit's father Bipin Agarwal was murdered in broad daylight in September 2021. Bipin had been accessing information using the RTI Act on land encroachment and had also reportedly requested for police protection as he had been attacked in 2020 as well.

After Bipin's murder, the family had been struggling for justice and his eldest son Rohit was trying to get the police to take action against all those involved in the murder.

As per a video put out by Rohit's grandfather, on March 24, 2022, Rohit had gone to the Police Station to submit a memorandum seeking arrest of the main accused persons and he allegedly waited there for several hours to try and meet senior officials. Anguished at the lack of police action in arresting the main accused, he reportedly died by suicide by lighting himself on fire and jumping off the roof of a multi storey building. According to the grandfather, the police was pressurizing the family to say that Rohit took the drastic step due to some personal reasons.

The murder of Bipin and the death of his son Rohit points to the abject failure of the state machinery in protecting whistleblowers and their families. The role of the police and administration needs to be investigated and accountability needs to be fixed for the failure to firstly protect Bipin Agarwal and after his death, to investigate and prosecute the main accused in a time-bound manner. Instead of assisting the family in their quest for justice, the apathy of the state has resulted in the death of Rohit. The incidents of attacks and killings of RTI users has been continuing unabated with impunity in Bihar.

**The NCPRI demands that an inquiry be set up under a retired judge and the role of the police and officials be properly inquired into in the matter of the murder of RTI Activist Bipin Agarwal and the subsequent death of his 14-year old son Rohit by suicide. Further, the family must immediately be provided appropriate compensation.**

Further, as the Central government has failed to operationalise the Whistleblowers Protection Act passed by Parliament in 2014 till date as it has not promulgated rules for the Act, we urge the Government of Bihar to provide protection to whistleblowers by adopting a state level whistleblowers protection law.

Thank you,

Anjali Bhardwaj, Nikhil Dey, Venkatesh Nayak, Pankti Jog, Dr. Shaikh, Pradip Pradhan, Rakesh Dubbudu, Ashish Ranjan, Shailesh Gandhi, Amrita Johri, Kathyayini Chamraj, Vipul Mudgal, Bhaskar Prabhu, Ajay Jangid, Karuna M., Chakradhar, Abey George, Rolly Shivhare, Ashok Kumar

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

Copy to:

Chief Information Commissioner, Bihar State Information Commission

DGP, Bihar