



International Dalit Solidarity Network

WORKING GLOBALLY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON WORK AND DESCENT

Illegal arrest, detention and torture of Dalit human rights activist

Case name

Mr. Md. Moosa Azami is a Monitoring Officer for the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights in the state of Uttar Pradesh. He has assisted many victims who have experienced discrimination in the justice system and has worked to promote the human rights of Dalits.

On the 18th of August, 20-25 police officers came to Moosa's house and entered into the house without a warrant. They searched for him despite the protest by his family members that he was not in the house on that time. The police officers abused his family verbally.

When Mr. Moosa turned up at the house, he was severely beaten by the police in the street in front of his family members and the general public. Subsequently, Mr. Moosa was brought to the police station, where he was again subjected to excessive violence and as a consequence of the torture, he was forced to accede to the charges of having helped a couple elope.

The charges against him were based on a petition filed by a Muslim Mr. Hazi Abdoul Kadir, whose daughter Ms. Reshma has allegedly eloped with a Mr. Ravi, a young Hindu Dalit man after consulting with Mr. Moosa.

Mr. Moosa has reiterated that Ms. Reshma and Mr. Ravi came to him only to accompany a woman, Ms. Ritu, who sought help to file a complaint for attempted rape. Mr. Moosa advised Ms. Ritu to approach the police for remedy in the attempted rape case, but did not in any way discuss matters relating to Ms. Reshma and Mr. Ravi.

The Advocate who appears for Mr. Moosa filed a petition in the court for a Medico Legal case and the Judge ordered that Mr. Moosa be given treatment in prison for his injuries caused by police brutality/sustained while in police custody.

IDSN and NCDHR request for the unconditional release of Moosa. A notice has been issued to the Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh, demanding him to initiate action against the police personnel who were involved in the illegal arrest and torture against Mr. Moosa.

NCDHR and IDSN have appealed to the UN Special Representative on human rights defenders, Ms. Hina Jilani, for her intervention in this case.

For more information contact:

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