

More than 60 journalists write to CM for release of NSA-detained Kishorechandra

Agency
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So far more than 60 journalists from India and abroad have endorsed a letter seeking the release of Manipur journalist, Kishorechandra Wangkhem. Wangkhem was arrested in Imphal under the National Security Act and has been sentenced to one-year imprisonment. The journalist had been arrested by the Imphal West Police after a video he put

up, criticising the BJP, went viral and was then granted bail. About 24 hours later, Wangkhem was arrested again.

In the letter, journalists have called out the invocation of the draconian National Security Act 1980 as "utterly arbitrary, high-handed and vindictive". The letter further states: "This is also evident from the fact that when Kishorechandra was picked up under NSA on November 27, it was actually a day after he had been released by an Imphal court from an attempt to frame him on the charge of sedition over the same videos."

It adds that the government "resorted to NSA even after the social media posts, however, intemperate their

language, had been found to be posing no threat to public order, let alone national security".

Calling out the government's disproportionate reaction, journalists have urged the chief minister of Manipur, N Biren Singh, to end his "abuse of power". The letter states: "Your disproportionate reactions betray, besides an intolerance to dissent, a disdain for the rule of law and the constitutional balance between free speech and reasonable restrictions. We urge you, therefore, to end this gross abuse of power by dropping all charges against Kishorechandra and withdrawing immediately the action taken against him under NSA."

Congress MLA K Ranjit questions sincerity of AMWJU President; Expresses skeptical on whether his criticism to the government will be published by newspaper or not

IT News
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Congress MLA K Ranjit, today came down heavily to the President of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU), Brozendo Ningomba, for his letter to the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) regarding the status of Journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhem at which he mentioned that the journalist who has been under arbitrary detention is not a journalist. K. Ranjit however said that the seemingly apologetic statement from the leaser of the highest body of the journalist is welcome and appreciate the AMWJU GB meeting resolution to rectify the letter sent.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the Chanung Multipurpose Community

Hall in Khundrakpam Assembly constituency today afternoon, K Ranjit said that the kind of development in the history of Manipuri journalism is unfortunate. K Ranjit did not go on whether the viral video by Kishorechandra Wangkhem deserve NSA or not but his showed more concerned on the silencing of the media persons.

"I suspect something which should not happened among the journalists of the state happen, I am also skeptical whether the media houses will publish what I said today", K Ranjit said hinting some kind of affiliation or leaning or say unholy relationships between some of the leaders of the Journalist fraternity.

Ranjit further lambast the BJP troller and those supporting just to get some opportunity

from the government. Reacting to MLA Rajen Ranjit said that the kind of statement is a clear indication of the MLA's integrity as his attitude to attract the Chief Minister by speaking against those supporting Kishorechandra and the arbitrary detention of him under NSA as justified showed how eager is the MLA to win the heart of the Chief Minister for getting some opportunity. Ranjit did not even spare K Shyam, saying that the lone LJP MLA who is enjoying a Ministerial portfolio in the BJP government now consider the journalist as a mere profession whom they can carry away anywhere anytime.

"He is worried about his cabinet seat and does not care what to speak or not

about the journalists of the state", Ranjit said.

Giving a slashing blow to the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, Ranjit further said that either the Chief Minister is in position of unsound mind as he said that he did not know who is MLA Joykishan.

"We have only 60 MLAs and if the leader of the house, who is the Chief Minister of Manipur says that he don't know MLA Khumukcham Joykishan, then the Chief Minister is in state of unsound mind", Ranjit said. The inaugural function of the Chanung Multipurpose Community Hall in Khundrakpam Assembly constituency was presided by MLA Th. Lokeshwar, PCC Member P. Sharat Singh, ZP member N. Sanatoma Singh and Pradhan of Uyumpok GP Inaocha as guest of honours.

Gun Culture must be put to an End

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Youth's Action Committee for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples (YACPIP) expressed strong condemnation to the killing of a youth namely Mr. (L) Salam Prashanta aged about 25 by a person said to be one SBI Manager Mr. Chhabunbam Budhachandra aged about 55 years old on the night of 25th December, 2018.

It could be observed that the incident happened for not providing ways to the conflicting parties while driving which resulted in shooting at a boy on his chest by Mr. Budhachandra with a gun which he had.

Such an incident was not only the incident committed by the Gun holders in the state but we already did experience similar cases earlier which claimed the lives of few innocent people.

The Government of Manipur must scrutinize the process of providing license gun and also the illegal guns which are pouring in our state through different illegal agents which is seriously in need for strict monitoring in order not to let such similar incident occur in the future.

We further would like to appeal the State Police Department to charge sheet the matter at the earliest and the killer be punished according to the rule of law. The Gun must be put to an End!

YACPIP said it will support to the deceased family members and to fight for justice for the deceased soul.

Spot enquiry conducted over pregnant woman dead



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Spot enquiry into the death of a pregnant woman at Haokha Mamang Leikai under Thoubal PS was conducted by the Manipur State Women Commission.

The Commission team is led

by Prof. Dr. Meinam Binota, Chairperson and she is accompanied by Dr. Farida Shah, Member and Smt. Soibam (o) Neelima Devi, Member along with staff. The team first visited to the sit-in-protest site at Thoubal Bazar and there they interacted with parental

family and relatives of the deceased woman's. Later the team visited at husband's house and there also interacted with the family and local people to find out the actual cause of death of Jaypremi, the deceased who was found dead on 25th this month.

Assam Ajmal apologises for abusing journalist, says he respects media; faces FIR

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A day after abusing a journalist, and threatening him of "smashing his head", Lok Sabha MP Moulana Badaruddin Ajmal expressed his apologies on Thursday, saying he respects media persons.

Ajmal, a Lok Sabha MP from Assam's Dhubri constituency, landed himself in a controversy on Wednesday over the episode. Ajmal, who leads the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), faced condemnation from from different sections over the incident. Several

media organisations have threatened to file FIRs against him.

Apologising over the episode, Ajmal, who is also a perfume trader, wrote on Twitter: "Media is the fourth pillar of democracy and I have always respected media persons and everyone knows that. I have sincere regards for them. The Mankachar incident was an unintentional aberration and I sincerely apologize for that to all concerned."

Guwahati-based Digital Media Journalist Association of Assam (DiMJAA) has said it will file an FIR against Ajmal on Thursday.

Members of the media fraternity also staged a protest on Thursday at Dispur Press Club, wearing black badge.

The AIUDF chief got agitated on Wednesday when a journalist asked him if he will side with the party that comes to power in New Delhi.

He was addressing a press conference at Mankachar to honour the AIUDF leaders who won in the recently held rural polls in Assam.

Ajmal not only verbally abused the journalist but also asked him to get out of the venue.

"I'll smash your head," he said, while snatching the boom of the journalist.

IT News
Imphal, Dec 27,

In the aftermath of the unfair detention of Kishorechandra Wangkhem under NSA and custodial killing of Abdul Graffer, the North East Dialogue Forum in a press statement has demanded to establish Commission of three independent experts chair by a retired Justice and review the implementation NAS in Manipur for the few decades and feasibility and technique of using NSA against Mr. Kishorechandra. The Forum also urged to communicate to CO of 26 Assam Rifle, Thoubal District, in Manipur to take the suspected perpetrators soldier led by a Major to the Thoubal Police station for official formalities and legal procedure at the earliest.

It also urged the DGP of Manipur and SP of Thoubal to submit a report against the torture and custodial or extrajudicial execution of Md. Abdul Gaffar immediately to the National Human Right Commission.

Besides the forum also drew the attention of the government for inviting the UN Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of the right to freedom of opinion and Expression, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association to Manipur for independent report of the status of the implementation of UN guide line on promotion of Freedom of Opinion and Expression and also the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of many people especially Md. Abdul Gaffar. Kishorechandra Wangkhem, a Journalist from Keishamthong

Moirangningthou Leirak was charged under the National Security Act (NSA) because of his comment against the ruling party which was not acceptable. He was arrested on Nov 21st 2018 and released on bail on 26th November. However, he was again rearrested on 27th November on the ground that Mr. Kishorechandra might cause threat to the national security. The comments from the journalists and public are divided by supporting his arrest by the Govt and on the other hand questioning the decision of the authority in the case of Mr. Kishorechandra. The implementation of NSA to protect the national security in Manipur need to be reviewed by a team of experts from the perspective of right of freedom of opinion and speech, Freedom of Assembly and Association and human right defender. Further it is very important to review the situation of human right of the prisoners in the Sajiwa Jail.

Md. Abdul Gaffar the S/O Md Babumacha of Usoipokpi village under the Lilong Police Station was forcefully arrested at 2:30AM of 20th December 2018 by a combine force of Police commando attached to Thoubal Police station and 26th Assam Rifle. Arrest memo was not issued. The identity of security forces were not disclosed at the time of arrest. The forces came in two TATA vehicle (407) and two white Gypsy (one belongs to police commando and another belongs to Assam Rifle). Md. Abdul Gaffar was suspected to be tortured to declare himself as a member of Underground (UG) but he perhaps refused to accept the order which led to continue the torture and lastly he was killed by the

combine forces. We suspected that such extrajudicial execution of Mr. Abdul Gaffar was organized by the concerned security forces involved in the execution in the larger human right environment of the present investigation of 1528 cases of Extrajudicial Execution by the CBI under AFSPA. It is important for all of us to remind that the Army and para Military under AFSPA were called by the Govt of Manipur to assist the state civil Authority to maintain law and order.

It is reported that the soldiers of the Assam Rifle involved in the execution refused intentionally to attend the police station of Thoubal for interrogation. The questions which arise are that did these soldiers take the consent of the DC or SP for such kind of operation, who commanded the operation? According to the comment of the members of community the forces were led by a Major of Assam Rifle. The concerned Lilong Police Station was not informed by the combined forces. Now the question is who gave the order to conduct the operation. Therefore, full investigation against 26th Assam Rifle and police involved in the operation including chain of command in 26th Assam Rifle. The arrest of Md. Abdul Gaffar is the violation of Supreme Court Judgement against AFSPA in 1997 which most of the time referred as the 10 commandment by the AR and Army.

The Extrajudicial Execution of Md. Abdul Gaffar is suspected to be another level of intervention of counter terrorism strategy of the security forces under AFSPA, the NEDF statement said.