

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR MINORITIES

Tour Report of Shri Naseem Ahmad, Chairman, and Shri Praveen Davar, Member, National Commission for Minorities regarding their visit on 22nd September, 2016 to Village Dingerheri, District Mewat, Haryana to look into the incident of two murders and gang rape of two women during the night of 24/25 August, 2016.

1. Following media reports and petitions received in the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) regarding murder of a couple and gang rape of two women, all belonging to Muslim community, in Village Dingerheri in Mewat District of Haryana during the night of 24/25 August, 2016, we visited the site of the incident on 22nd September, 2016. A report dated 20.09.2016 regarding the incident had already been received in the Commission from the Deputy Commissioner, Mewat.
2. As per the report of Deputy Commissioner, Mewat, Tauru Police Station received information about the incident through a mobile phone call at 3:15 AM on 25.08.2016. Immediately thereafter S.H.O. Tauru Police Station reached the site along with his police staff to get first hand details of the crime. One of the rape victims told them that she, along with other

members of the family, was sleeping in their house within their agricultural land; that at around 12 midnight 4/5 unknown persons forced their entry into their house and, after thrashing them, killed Ibrahim s/o Zahuruddin and Rasheedan w/o Ibrahim, and raped Smt. Sarjina w/o Major and Ms. Aneesa d/o Zafruddin; that four other members of the family were grievously injured; that the culprits also took away jewellery and cash and a motorcycle. The injured, according to D.C. Report, were quickly taken to hospital by the police. Superintendent of Police, Mewat and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) also reached the site quickly and as per their directions the crime spot was thoroughly examined and site evidences were protected. Zonal Inspector General, Police also visited the site quickly. A dog squad was also pressed into service at the crime spot. The evidence materials were collected from the scene and sent to Police Lab, Madhuban for analysis. The entire police team of high officials quickly rushed to the Medical College, Nalhar (Near Nuh) to enquire about the injured persons and hear their version of the incident. After post-mortem examination, the dead bodies of two murdered persons were handed over to their kins for last rites. Five special investigation teams were set up under the supervision of DSP, Tauru, and statements of rape victims were got recorded under section 164 Cr.P.C. before a

Magistrate. Giving further details of investigation, it was stated in the report of D.C. that four persons so far (Sandeep s/o. Ram Niwas Ahir, Amarjeet s/o Virender Ahir, Karamjeet s/o Brahamjeet Ahir and Rahul Verma s/o Suneel Verma Bania) have been arrested and are presently lodged in Bhondsi Jail after their police remand, and Identification Parade of arrested persons was also got conducted on 14.09.16 as per the orders of the court. The report also mentioned that a report dated 19.09.16 was also sent to the State Government for giving compensation to the victims @ Rs.5 lakh each to two rape victims and kins of two persons killed, besides Rs. 1 lakh to injured Zafruddin s/o Hasan Mohd and Rs. 50 thousand each to three other injured persons.

3. It is worth mentioning here that the State Government has lately decided to hand over the entire case to CBI for carrying out the investigation and taking further necessary action. This fact was confirmed by the District authorities during our visit to the site on 22.09.16.
4. The NCM team reached the crime site in Village Dingerheri at 11:00 AM on 22.09.16 and interacted with the families of the victims, village locals and district officials, including Shri Mani Ram Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Mewat and Shri Kuldeep Singh, Superintendent of Police, Mewat, and gathered details from them. The head of victims' family

Zahuruddin s/o Kale Khan narrated the entire sequence of events that took place during mid-night of 24/25 August, 2016 and also explained his relationship with all the victims. He also said that the family had no enmity with anybody in the village or outside. Most of the persons who interacted with us at the crime spot were critical of the role of the police so far. In short, they stated that some more persons were involved in the crime and the police was still clueless about them; that statement of the rape victim was got recorded in utmost haste while she was still in severe trauma and was breathless; that the rape victim had stated that the accused persons confronted them whether they ate beef, but this fact has been omitted from the statement recorded u/s 164 Cr.P.C; and that the accused persons were 'gau rakshaks'. One person who spoke before us also said that Muslims felt hurt by Chief Minister, Haryana's reported statement that it was a small issue. They also complained that in spite of Chief Minister's assurance that victims/their dependents would be given government jobs, the district authorities were merely offering casual employment on D.C. rates, which was not acceptable to them.

5. The Deputy Commissioner, Mewat informed us that he has already received a sum of Rs. 45 lakh from the State Government for giving compensation at double the rates recommended by him as per extant

government instructions. Thus, each rape victim and kins of the dead will be paid @ 10 lakh each, while one seriously injured person will get Rs. 2 lakh, and the remaining three injured persons will be paid @ Rs. 1 lakh each. He assured us that these payments would be made on that very evening. Regarding giving of jobs to the victims or their kins, he said that he has so far received instructions to offer employments to three persons at DC rates only.

6. A close look at the F.I.R. dated 25.08.16 of the incident reveals that it has been registered against 4 or 5 unknown persons under sections 459, 460, 302, 376D, 396 and 397 of the IPC, Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Sections 25, 54 and 59 of the Arms Act, 1959 at Tauru Police Station. As the case now stands transferred to CBI, it is now for CBI to quickly carry out investigation and file charge sheet against the culprits.
7. After staying at the site of crime and interaction with the district authorities, victims and their families, and also village locals, we left for Delhi at 12:30 PM the same afternoon, and reached NCM office at 2:30 PM.

Summation & Recommendations:

8. The incident has shaken the people of the area and there is a lot of resentment, especially among Muslim community, partly due to allegations that the culprits were 'gau rakshaks'. The role of the police in handling the case is also being widely criticized. Although, on the demand of the people of the area the State Govt. has transferred the case to CBI, but since law & order is the state subject, the State govt. is well advised to take steps to promote communal harmony and restore people's confidence in the functioning of the police. There is a need to convey a clear message that culprits of such heinous crimes would not be spared. Such a step is more relevant in the context of Mewat district.

8.1 The State authorities should co-ordinate with CBI to ensure quick completion of investigation in the case by the latter. This will go a long way in restoring the confidence of the people of the area in the functioning of police.

8.2 It is worth appreciating that the State Govt. is paying compensation to the victims at double the rate of compensation recommended by the district administration under the existing rules. The same spirit of magnanimity is expected in the matter of giving jobs to the victims and their dependants, as the case may be. Offering of casual employment at D.C. rates is

inadequate in the light of reported assurance given by the Chief Minister, Haryana to give employment to the victims or their kins. It is, therefore, strongly urged that the matter may be reconsidered and regular employment may be given to the victims/ their kins.



(Naseem Ahmad)
Chairman, NCM
26.09.2016



(Praveen Davar)
Member, NCM