

Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Dr. Raman Singh  
Civil Lines, Raipur  
CHHATTISGARH – 492 001, INDIA

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, December 2016

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that on 2 November the Police in Chhattisgarh beat detained journalist Santosh Yadav and seven other prisoners with batons for protesting peacefully against the quality of food in the Jagdalpur central jail. The extent of Yadav's injuries remain unclear. Police authorities have accused Yadav and the other detainees of several offences including 'rioting' and registered a criminal case against them.

I call on you to drop the charges filed against all prisoners solely for protesting against prison conditions and launch an independent investigation into the beatings.

I further urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Santosh Yadav and drop all charges against him as he is being targeted for his work among Indigenous Adivasi communities in Bastar.

Lastly, I would like to stress that all prisoners should be treated in accordance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and not be subjected to torture or other ill-treatment.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,