

District Level Meeting on Police Atrocities

Topic: Issues related to police atrocities and legal training on statutory safeguard against illegal police action

05.10.2019 | Shamli

In continuation of Bread for the World programme, 4th District level meeting was organized at Shamli, Uttar Pradesh on 5th October 2019 to address and discuss the aforesaid issue and to conduct a training session on constitutional and statutory safeguards against illegal police action. This meeting was conducted in collaboration with Afkar Foundation India, a not for profit organization working for the empowerment of rural backwards and marginalized section of the society through technical assistance and awareness campaigns.



The programme witnessed the presence of notable lawyers, social activists, & victims.

Since the formation of new government in Uttar Pradesh there has been a rapid increase in cases related to police brutality in form of

extra judicial killings, illegal detentions etc., especially in the western part of the state. As per reports around 3000 police encounter took place in UP since March 2017 and most of the victims belong to dalit & minority communities. Recently United Nations officials have written to the Indian government with information about 15 cases of what could be extra-judicial killings by the Uttar Pradesh police. Most of the cases which the OHCHR has raised with the Indian government pertain to Muslim victims.

Introductory session was conducted by Adv Mohd. Danish from HRLN. He discussed the purpose and objective of the meeting and put forth certain facts pertaining to the gradual increase in encounters in the Shamli district along with the gruesome situation in western UP. He highlighted as to how the police is using its power to curb the voice of victim families seeking justice. By all means and measures the police and the local administration act to pressurize the victim families. Adv Danish illustrated certain cases where kins of deceased were not only threatened with dire consequences but also implicated in fake police cases.



Subsequently, he went on explaining the landmark judgment passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in PUCL Vs State of Maharashtra, 2014 wherein certain guidelines were mandated to be followed while investigating the cases of death and grievous injuries in police encounters. The court said that these guidelines will be operating as standard procedure for thorough, effective and independent investigation.

Advocate Ali Qambar Zaidi, conducted an elaborate session on constitutional rights and the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code with respect to the safeguards available to a person- both at pre and post arrest stage. This session was kind of training because most people in rural areas don't even have basic understanding of the available safeguards and their ignorance results in their exploitation on many occasions. It is quite a practice where police illegally detain a person and fails to produce him before the nearest magistrate within 24 hrs.



Provisions like chapter 5 of the C.r.P.C which deals with rights of arrested person and the power given to the police were discussed in detail. The session was interactive and participative in nature and various queries and doubts were put forth by the participants.



Post training, a separate session on writing complaints, lodging an FIR, do's and don'ts while giving information to the police, filing of RTI and other applications before concerned authorities was also conducted by HRLN.

The meeting concluded with giving legal advice to those who wanted assistance and advice on their existing cases. It was also agreed that regular awareness programme along with necessary legal training shall be continued in future as well. HRLN also committed to take up cases at the High Court as well the Supreme Court as and when needed.