

Inter-state trafficking - Condemnation and Concerns – An Appeal

We, the undersigned, are horrified by the news of 15th May 2024, about sex trafficking of young women and minor girls from Assam into Arunachal Pradesh and the extreme bodily harm they have been subjected to. Young women and minor girls from various districts of Assam have been trafficked into Arunachal Pradesh and forced to perform sexual acts before the camera. The girls were tortured, burnt with cigarettes if they resisted. Some were administered contraceptive pills. This ghastly story of sexual violence, torture and bondage was revealed when one of them escaped and reported it to the public.

Equally horrifying is the identity of the culprits. No other than police personnel in Arunachal, Pradesh ranging from the level of a Deputy Superintendent of Police to constables, officials of government departments like the PWD, Rural Works Department (RWD), and individuals from the medical fraternity, apart from hotel owners and middlemen who facilitate the ‘supply’ of girls from Assam, are alleged to being involved in this heinous crime. All this has been covered in the print media and TV channels in both Arunachal Pradesh (NEWSFY) and Northeast News Assam. It has been reported that this inter-state trafficking racket, busted by the Itanagar police, has been going on for several years. The TV channels have reported that a total of 22 people had been arrested for their involvement in the sex trade.

Though the perpetrators are in judicial custody, there are multiple challenges and complications involved in ensuring that the aggrieved young girls receive the justice due to them. Some of the minors have reportedly stopped talking, due to their state of shock or trauma. Some survivors have turned hostile because of threats by their own fathers or others involved. Further, we are shocked to know from the news channel NEWSFY that Arunachal’s State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights was in the know but took no action.

We, as individuals and representatives of civil society organisations, condemn these heinous criminal activities of the perpetrators in the strongest terms. No words can describe the devilish crimes committed on the young girls and women who, in this case, are reportedly from Assam like Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon. More importantly we must understand and think about the nature of deterioration in the social and economic reality of our society which is pushing our children into the hands of these criminals.

We therefore call on State agencies of both the states to display robust measures toward

eradicating organised sexual crimes against girls and women. Partnerships or collaborative exercises are strongly recommended between state institutions dealing with the enforcement authorities, women's groups and child rights protection. Institutional care homes and One Stop Centres must be included to strengthen this effort to complement the task of sexual crime eradication. We are aware of the success stories of inter-state police coordination in dealing with trafficking and expect this to be taken with full might.

We recommend interventions such as psycho-social care and counselling for those survivors of violence. Social organizations should be considered to conduct workshops that involved positive interaction, music and dance therapy – to enable them to cope with the trauma. Where necessary, special residential facilities with institutional services on counselling, trauma management should be made possible through creative methods, as well as life skills to enable socio-legal and economic support.

We demand that the arrested culprits, and those yet to be caught, are dealt with strict legal action against them under the relevant Acts that are in place. We express our solidarity with the survivors of these recent sexual atrocities who are now under protection, and demand prompt and appropriate action towards the delivery of justice from the judiciary and law enforcement authorities.

It is in this light that we call for wider publicity and collectively condemn these acts of abduction, purchase of vulnerable women and girls from Assam into Arunachal Pradesh, resulting in violence, rape, pornographic voyeurism and bodily harm to them.

1. Monisha Behal, Guwahati
2. Ajanta K. Bezbaruah, Guwahati
3. Aliza Begum, Golaghat
4. Amalia Ghurni, Golaghat
5. Ananya Lahon, Golaghat
6. Anita Das, Mirza
7. Anjali Tirkey, Guwahati
8. Anurita Pathak, Guwahati
9. Aparna Chutia, Dhemaji
10. Babita Handique, Dhemaji
11. Babli Basumatary, Guwahati
12. Baishali Garg, Guwahati

13. Bandita Das, Mirza
14. Barsha Rajkonwar, Dhemaji
15. Bhabani Deka, Mirza
16. Bhadreswari Deka, Udalguri
17. Bhakhila Deka, Udalguri
18. Bikash Karmakar, Guwahati
19. Bobby Konwar, Dhemaji
20. Bobita Ingtipi, Golaghat
21. Bondita Mrina, Jorhat
22. Bondita Pathak, Golaghat
23. Bornali Konwar, Dhemaji
24. Chameli Rabha, Udalguri
25. Chinu Kalita, Darrang
26. Chitra Deka, Mirza
27. Chitralkha Barua, Guwahati
28. Darsona Sarmah, Guwahati
29. Dipa Moni Barman, Dhemaji
30. Dipali Bora, Udalguri
31. Dipti Deka, Udalguri
32. Dipti Phukan, Golaghat
33. Dr Archana Sharma, Guwahati
34. Dr. Alpana Borgohain, Gauhati University
35. Dr. Manorama Sharma, Guwahati
36. Dr. Pallavi Deka, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati
37. Dr. Sabrina Iqbal Sircar, Guwahati
38. Ela Sahariah, Udalguri
39. FST, Guwahati
40. Gita Kujur, Golaghat
41. Gita Mazumdar, Mirza
42. Gita Rabha, Udalguri
43. Gita Rani Bhattacharya, Guwahati
44. Hemjyoti Medhi, Tezpur University
45. Hemlata Gogoi, Golaghat
46. Hemlata Sahariah, Udalguri
47. Jamunakanya Gorh, Golaghat
48. Jayanti Deka, Udalguri
49. Jayarani Das, Mirza

50. Jennifer Liang, Guwahati
51. Joshomayee Devi, Guwahati
52. Junu Moni Das, Mirza
53. Jyotirekha Gogoi, Golaghat
54. Kabita Konwar, Dhemaji
55. Kangkana Duarah, Golaghat
56. Ketaki Bardalai, Guwahati
57. Kishori Baruah, Miguel Das Queah, Nirmal Deka, Rakesh Bora, Simran Bajaj, Suraj Lahkar – Utsah, Guwahati
58. Lakhimai Baruah, Dhemaji
59. Lalita Mazumdar, Mirza
60. Latika Das, Mirza
61. Laxmi Chetri, The Ant, Chirang
62. Lily Gogoi, Golaghat
63. Lily Lakra, Golaghat
64. Lily Teronpi, Golaghat
65. Luit Goswami, Dhemaji
66. Maini Mahanta, Guwahati
67. Maitrayee Paul, Guwahati
68. Mamoni Pathak, Mirza
69. Manju Moni Gogoi, Dhemaji
70. Manju Saikia, Golaghat
71. Marami das, Mirza
72. Maromi Bibi, Mirza
73. Mayuri Dutta, Golaghat
74. Meenal Tula, Guwahati
75. Mira Kalita, Darrang
76. Monika Rabha, Udalguri
77. Moon Bora, Golaghat
78. Mousumi Changmai, Dhemaji
79. Mridula Kalita
80. Mridula Konwar, Dhemaji
81. Namita Gogoi, Dhemaji
82. Namita Kalita, Darrang
83. Namita Konwar, Guwahati
84. Nandinee Kalita, Guwahati
85. Nandita Deka, Guwahati

86. Nani Kumar Saikia, SATRA, Sipajhar
87. Nilanju Dutta, Guwahati
88. Nirmali Borah, Udalguri
89. Nonimoni Saikia, Golaghat
90. North East Network
91. Pallabi Hazarika, Guwahati
92. Papuli Jaradhara, Dhemaji
93. Parijat Bora, Udalguri
94. Parismita Baruah, Golaghat
95. Philashon Mahung, Guwahati
96. Prabitra Phukan, Dhemaji
97. Pradyut Bhattacharjee, SeSTA
98. Pranita Borah, Udalguri
99. Pratibha Thakuria, Mirza
100. Priya Rajbongshi, Golaghat
101. Prof. Polly Vauqueline, Gauhati University
102. Purnima Borah, Udalguri
103. Purva Bharati Educational Trust, Jorhat
104. Rajib Deka, Guwahati
105. Rakhee Moral, Cotton University
106. Rashmi Musahary, Guwahati
107. Rashmi Rekha Borah, Guwahati
108. Reena Gogoi, Golaghat
109. Rekha Rabha, Udalguri
110. Resemary Soreng, Golaghat
111. Rita Banerji, Green Hub, Tezpur
112. Ritumoni Saikia, Golaghat
113. Rohini Saikia, Golaghat
114. Rubita Deka, Mirza
115. Runjun Kalita, Darrang
116. Sabina Kakati, Dhemaji
117. Samitra Deka, Udalguri
118. Sawani Deka, Udalguri
119. Serpina Kerketta, Golaghat
120. Sewali Rajkonwar, Dhemaji
121. Sheetal Sharma, Guwahati
122. Silivia Baruah, Golaghat

123. Sumitri Churi, Golaghat
124. Sunali Ingtipi, Golaghat
125. Sunayana Baruah, Guwahati
126. Supriya Khound, Dibrugarh,
127. Swapnajyoti Baruah, Golaghat
128. Tarumoni Gogoi, Dhemaji
129. Tezpur Mahila Samiti
130. Thuiet Rongpharpi, Guwahati
131. Tina Tessori, Golaghat
132. Tutu Mazumdar, Mirza
133. Upani Pagag, Sonitpur
134. Usha Deka, Darrang
135. Usha Lakra, Sonitpur
136. Women in Governance (WinG)-Assam
137. Yasmin Laskar, Guwahati