

URGENT ACTION

JAILED ACTIVIST DENIED MEDICAL CARE

Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba, an activist and academic, is being held in pre-trial detention in Nagpur Central Prison, Maharashtra state. His legs are almost completely paralyzed and he uses a wheelchair. He is being denied medicine and access to suitable sanitary facilities.

47-year-old **Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba** is an activist and professor of English at Delhi University. He has been an outspoken critic of human rights abuses committed by security forces fighting armed groups in central India. On 9 May Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba was arrested by police in Delhi and flown to Nagpur, Maharashtra, where a local court remanded him in judicial custody until 23 May 2014.

He is being held under India's principal anti-terror legislation, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), on suspicion of being involved in unlawful activities, being a member of and supporting a terrorist organization, and conspiring to commit terrorist acts.

Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba suffers from post-polio paralysis of both legs and is a wheelchair user. He also suffers from a cardiac condition and hypertension, and requires regular treatment with medicine. His lawyer told Amnesty International that prison authorities blocked his family members from giving him medicine essential for his treatment. The lawyer also said that Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba was being denied access to suitable sanitary facilities inside the prison.

The UAPA uses sweeping and overbroad definitions of 'acts of terrorism' and 'membership' of 'unlawful' organizations, and does not comply with India's international legal obligations

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on prison authorities to provide Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba with adequate medical care and attention, and appropriate sanitary facilities that meet his needs, if he is to remain in detention;
- Urging prison authorities to ensure that he is protected from torture or other ill-treatment;
- Urging the government of Maharashtra to use alternatives to detention if adequate medical care and appropriate sanitary and other facilities cannot be ensured.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 JUNE 2014 TO:

Jail Superintendent

Vaibhav Kamble
Nagpur Central Jail
Wardha Road
Vasant Nagar, Nagpur
Maharashtra 440 020
Fax: +91 712 2420679
Email: spjail_nagpur@rediffmail.com
Salutation: Dear Sir

Director-General of Police, Maharashtra

Sanjeev S Dayal
Police Headquarters
Old Council Hall
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, Mumbai
Maharashtra 400 001
Fax: +91 22 2202 6672
Email: dgpmms.mumbai@mahapolice.gov.in
Salutation: Dear Sir

And copies to:

Home Minister, Maharashtra
R R Patil
7th Floor, World Trade Centre
Cuffe Parade
Mumbai
Maharashtra 400 005
Fax: +91 22 2215 1733
Email: min.home@maharashtra.gov.in

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since 2005, a number of socio-political activists and human rights defenders around central India have faced false charges and imprisonment for highlighting the human rights situation in the region.

Among them are Binayak Sen of the People's Union for Civil Liberties; Kartam Joga, an Adivasi leader of the Communist Party of India; and Soni Sori and Lingaram Kodopi, Adivasi activists and Prashant Rahi, an journalist and activist.

Human rights groups in India have highlighted several instances where the UAPA has been abused, with the use of fabricated evidence and false charges to detain activists defending the rights of Adivasi and Dalit communities and peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association.

Parts of the UAPA do not meet international human rights standards and are likely to lead to human rights violations. Amendments to the Act in 2008 extended the minimum period of detention of suspects from 15 to 30 days and the maximum period of such detention from 90 to 180 days. These amendments also avoided adequate pre-trial safeguards against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees, they reversed certain evidential burdens of grave crimes and required, in certain circumstances, the accused persons to prove their innocence.

Name: Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba
Gender m/f: m

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