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The Hon'ble Chairman,  
National Commission For Scheduled Castes,  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market,  
New Delhi-110003.



**Subject- Denial of Five Marla plots and Panchayat land to 40 Scheduled Caste families of village Koharka, Block Naushehra Pannuan, District Tarn Taran, Punjab and now, recent violent attack by upper caste landlords on protesting site of Dalit families.**

Sir,

Respectfully showeth—

1. That the present complaint is a sequel to a previous complaint. No **FC-17314 dtd. 18-07-2022** filed in this Hon'ble Commission by the applicant on behalf of residents of Village Koharka who are members of Scheduled Caste community (**hereafter referred as complainants**) . This complaint is filed in order to apprise this Hon'ble commission about fresh violence meted out against complainants in same matter. As per the directions of the previous State Government, the complainants had submitted their applications for the allotment of 5 Marla Plots to DC Office (Dist. Tarn Taran) in accordance with the Rule-13-A of the Punjab Village Common Land (Regulation) Rules, 1964. Acting upon above applications, the DC office had marked the applications to BDPO to act upon the applications in accordance with law.
2. That under BDPO's instructions, Village Koharka's Gram Panchayat passed a written resolution dated 30.09.2021 wherein it was decided that out of the Village's Panchayati Land, 5 Marla Plots shall be allotted to the

applicant families. The Copy of above-said resolution is attached hereafter as **ANNEXURE A-1**.

3. That in the above-mentioned resolution, it was decided to prepare a list of beneficiaries.

But due to change of State Government after the passing of the above resolution, the Panchayat turned hostile to above resolution and in connivance with the local BDPO announced the auction of the said Panchayati land. The complainants who are 40 Dalit families of the said Village sat on a peaceful protest on the Panchayati Land demanding a decision on their 5 marla plot applications before the auction. They also lodged a representation with the SDM office to cancel the said auction but no reply has been received so far. The copy of above representation is attached as **ANNEXURE A-2**.

No heed was paid to their protest and half of the Panchayati Land was auctioned on 23.05.2022.

4. That auctioning of land without deciding the issue of 5 Marla Plots was already a violation, but apart from that a very surprising type of illegality has been committed during this auction. It is that the SC quota land of Panchayati land on which complainants are sitting on a protest, has been declared as the General quota land by the Gram Panchayat and the BDPO and the auction of this part of the land has been withheld so far, whereas, the land which belongs to general category as per Map and land record of the village, has been declared as the SC quota land, and has been allotted to its favourites by the Gram Panchayat.
5. That the above step has crossed all limits of corruption and casteism. The complainants have already filed an application in DC office demanding that the above auction be declared illegal and hence, cancelled but no reply has been received so far.



6. That the complainants in their representation to DC, had demanded that a probe committee may be set-up under the leadership of an SDM rank officer which may clarify in its report that which part of the Panchayati land is the SC quota land as per the original map of the Village and a fresh auction must take place as per the report of such Probe Committee. But no reply has been received so far. The receipt no. of above application is also attached hereafter as **ANNEXURE A-3**.

7. That furthermore, the BDPO is hands in gloves with the Panchayat which is carrying a casteist mindset and wants to plant dummy Dalit labourers in SC quota land so that the benefits of such land may be enjoyed by the rich landlords of the village.

8. That the complainants are sitting on peaceful protest for last 45 days on the disputed Panchayat land and are being constantly threatened by the Panchayat as well as BDPO of dire consequences if they do not lift the protest.

Non-redressal of this issue may cause violent clashes in village as the opposite parties are regularly threatening to harm the complainants.

If any harm is done to the protestors/complainants in near future, the District administration and Village Panchayat shall be held responsible for it. Also, the District administration, in order to pressurize the complainants to discontinue the peaceful protest, may also implicate the complainants in frivolous criminal cases.

9. That recently, the BDPO issued written order that the auction of remaining Panchayat land will be conducted on 22-06-2022. The Copy of order is attached as **ANNEXURE A-4**.

When the aggrieved families approached the BDPO to request cancellation of auction, he dared them saying that the auction will take place at the same very place where they are protesting and threatened using Police force for the same. He also refused to accept a written

representation in this regard from the complainants. Such is the high-handedness of administration in this matter.

The BDPO came to Panchayati land on 22-06-22 and remained there from morning to evening but the said auction was not held for reasons best known to the administration.

That recently, a letter was sent by the DC office to these protestors wherein a correspondence between DC office and BDPO has been cited in which the DC office had instructed the BDPO to enquire upon the allegations and revert back in three days from 02-06-22 but no action has been taken. Moreover, the allegations are against the BDPO as well and therefore it is unjust to appoint him as a judge in his own case. The photocopy of the above letters is attached herewith as **ANNEXURE A-5**.

#### **LATEST DEVELOPMENT-**

That the latest development in the matter is that on 29-10-2022, the upper caste landlords in an attempt to remove the protesting 40 Dalit families from the protest site, attacked the site when most of the male members had gone for labouring in paddy harvest.

These casteist goons led by village Sarpanch abused the ladies and hurled casteist slurs at them. They were armed with deadly weapons and they threatened to kill the protesting Dalit women. The Dalit families had set up a temporary tent/ shelter on protesting site which was set on fire by the enraged upper caste mob. The woman and children were lucky to escape unburned. No FIR has been registered against any person involved in above-mentioned attack yet.

A video proof of the said place burning in Fire is also available.

10. That it is pertinent to mention here that on 01-11-2022, the local Police illegally raided the homes of protestors in their absence while they were sitting on protest. This shows Police's clear connivance with the Panchayat and upper caste landlords. The Police is doing this in a bid to



threaten the dalit protestors into withdrawing their protest. It is also possible that police might illegally plant illegal materials in houses of the complainants to implicate them in false cases.

**NOTE-** (i) The Authorization letter of 40 Dalit families/complainants, authorizing the DDVA (Dalit Dasta Virodhi Andolan) to register a representation with this commission on their behalf is attached as **ANNEXURE A-6.**

(ii) Due to urgency of matter and shortage of time, translation of vernacular annexures into English could not be done. However, the complainant undertakes to provide translated documents as and when required by the Hon'ble Commission. For time being, the vernaculars in Punjabi may kindly be accepted as such, in interest of justice.

**PRAYER-**

- (i) A show cause notice may be issued to the Deputy Commissioner , TarnTaran to explain why he has not responded to the multiple representations filed in this matter with his office.
- (ii) A Probe Committee may be set-up to probe into distortion of Village Map and SC quota land by Panchayat and BDPO. Fresh auction must be held after a perusal of report submitted by the above committee.
- (iii) That the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development Punjab, may be ordered to give a written reply as to whether the Government is continuing or discontinuing with the Five- Marla Plot scheme started by the previous Government.

- (iv) That an interim stay be imposed on operation of lease granted on half of the Panchayati land vide auction dated 23-05-2022 till the decision of present representation.
- (v) That the holding of Auction of remaining Panchayati land of Koharka Village be stayed till decision of present representation, in interest of justice.
- (vi) That strictest penal penalties be imposed and FIR be registered against upper caste mob including the Village Sarpanch who set the protesting site of complainants on fire.

Therefore, you are hereby requested that this illegal auction may kindly be cancelled and fresh auction may be ordered on basis of report to be submitted by the probe committee.

Thanking You,  
Yours trustworthy,

  
Gagandeep,

Advocate,  
President,

DDVA (Dalit Dasta Virodhi Andolan).  
Mobile- 9814531733

DATED: 02-11-2022  
PLACE: Phillaur