To, March 6, 2024

Shri. Siddaramaiah  
Hon’ble Chief Minister  
State of Karnataka  
Vidhana Soudha  
AMbedkar Veedhi,  
Bangalore - 560001  
Email: cm.kar@nic.in

CC:  
Dr. G Parameshwara  
Hon’ble Home Minister, State of Karnataka  
Vidhana Soudha, Ambedkar Veedhi,  
Bangalore - 560001  
Email: koratagere.mla@karnataka.gov.in

Shri. Mankal Vaidya  
Hon’ble Minister of Fisheries and Inland ports  
Vidhana Soudha, Ambedkar Veedhi,  
Bangalore - 560001  
Email: bhatkal.mla@karnataka.gov.in

Respected Sir,

**Subject:** Representation on behalf of the Fisher Community of Kasarkod Tonka, Honnavara Taluk requesting support to quash all false complaints/ cases/ FIRs filed against the villagers.

We are writing this urgent representation with reference to the Kasarkod fishing community in Honnavar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District who have faced harassment and intimidation, especially the women by the Police Department repeatedly since 2021. We have been unable to secure a personal appointment with your kind self until now and we request you to please acknowledge and act based on the contents of this letter.

As you might be aware, the fisherfolk of this community have been protesting the construction of a private port by the Honnavar Port Private Limited since 2010 and a dedicated port access road since 2010. The road passes through the fish drying area (coastal commons) and the beach which is a nesting site of the endangered Schedule I species Olive Ridley Turtle and also private land which includes the fishermen’s homes which has been granted to them by various schemes of the government over the years since the 1970s.
The community has placed multiple representations before the authorities to make their distress known about the port matter and all their petitions have gone unheeded and they have had to resort to peaceful assembly and protests many times. During the previous regime of the Karnataka government, the local administration has used many intimidation tactics - like deploying large police force of 600 - 800 to intimidate the villagers when construction of a road without any approval was done and illegally detaining the protestors and filing false FIRs against the protestors based on fabricated/ false cases against them. There are close to 15 FIRs now on approximately 150 people in the fishing village. The ground reality is it a peaceful fishing village!

We are shocked that at this time, when your government is actively working to uphold the constitution and its values, an incident has once again occurred on January 31, 2024 and the police has used its powers to wrongfully detain the peaceful protestors, the men and women of a fishing village. What is worse is that many of them have been physically assaulted and women have been pushed and held by policemen! What is even more distressing is that this time the villagers have been detained not for a few hours but for 5 full days! An FIR was filed with completely false charges accusing the detained men and women of attacking police personnel. Hundreds of villagers and hundreds of police force were deployed when the incident occurred. There were many video recordings made by police and the citizens and evidence can surely be gathered and truth be found.

We request you to immediately kindly order an inquiry into the episode of January 31, 2024 to look into the atrocities committed by the police. Since the 2024 Lok Sabha elections are approaching, there is a concern that previous and fresh false cases/FIRs will cause further distress to the falsely accused persons. We urge you to drop all false cases/ FIRs once the inquiry is completed and establishes the innocence of the villagers.

We take this opportunity to submit a fact finding report published by a team of independent journalists and lawyers who had visited Honnavar and conducted a detailed investigation. Please find attached the Kannada and English copy of the report. We hope you will consider a review of the port project basis this report and we sincerely request you to intervene to ensure that the environmental rules of law and the commons of indigenous coastal communities are protected.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

Rajani Santosh  Vidya Dinker

For Karavali Karnataka Janabhivriddhi Vedike
Email: contact.kkjv@gmail.com