

**Minutes of Uttar Pradesh Civil Society (CSO) Meeting/Workshop held
at Hotel Gomti, Lucknow
18 October 2008**

Attendees profile:

- Aanchal Grameen Vikar Samajik Sansthan, Sharanpur
- Action Group for RTI
- Advocates
- Asha Parivaar
- Beti Foundation, Lucknow
- Department of Journalism, University of Lucknow
- Department of Social Work University of Lucknow
- Dynamic Action Group
- Former member Women's Commission UP
- Forum of Peace
- Gharelu Kaamkaaji Mahila Morcha
- Gopal Krishna, Advocate, Gudiya
- Humsafar
- Indian Women's Federation, UP
- Maa Shail Putri Shiksha Niketan Seva Samiti, Kanpur
- Mahila Samakhya Society
- National Alliance for People's Movement
- Paryavaran Pradhyogiki Uthaan Samiti, Allahabad
- PUCL/Gudiya
- Retired IAS
- Retired IPS
- Retired IPS former DGP UP
- Retired IPS now PUCL
- Rickshaw Mazdoor Union

Introductions and problems faced with respect to policing raised

Asha ji, Indian Women's Federation

Women's groups raised the following issues – people do not go to the police because they are rude, discourteous – e.g., Ashiana case of rape of dalit girl. Influential perpetrators were released by police. After pressure from women's groups some minimal action was taken by Superintendent of police Mr. Sikara who assured CSOs he would follow rule of law and take action against the accused. But when accused was arrested there was enormous pressure on him and the SP and IO were transferred. Key problem is political interference in policing. At times police stations are empty, public is told there is VIP movement so all police are on that duty. VVIPs always protected, common man has no protection. Common people are victimized or greeted with inaction instead of being given service. Women police *thanis* are defunct and are an institutional façade.

Kumkum Tripathi, Mahila Samakhya

The inequality in terms of police treatment is stark and widespread. Policing is only given as per your status. Dalits, high caste, low caste, rich, poor, influential, common folks are treated differently. In last 2 days newspapers have reported how police have victimized two boys who were stopped to ask for their license, their photos were flashed next day in all the newspapers with the stories that tarnished their image.

In Auriya district a mother in law went to lodge a FIR that some people were harassing her daughter in law but instead of taking action against he accused the police threatened her with arrest saying she was trying to sell her daughter in law.

She went to the police station to get her tenants registered as per a recent advertisement about this regulation in the papers – but was turned away thrice as no one knew what she was talking about. They asked her if she had nothing else to do and that they have not received the orders for doing so. But when she went in her staff car, she was greeted well and told why did she took the trouble to come to the police station. She could have telephoned and the policeman would have come to her home. Its only because she went in a staff car of government of UP she was taken notice of. When she went as an ordinary citizen of UP she was ridiculed and turned away. Police does not know for whom they are – for the elite or citizen of India. Police think their role is to serve VIPs manage *melas* and political rallies.

Izhat Ansari, Action Group for RTI

In Lucknow district 28,000 people complained of non registration of FIR to the SP in 2007, and about 26000 complaints in 2006 of these, only 9% and 4% were formally registered after the complaint.

The monitoring of police processes is key to reform and change. There should be a coalition of CSOs to monitor police action. That would be a lobbying tool for police reform in the state.

Manzoor Ahmad, retired IPS

There is no monitoring by DIGs, SPs at local level. The supervision of lower ranks lacks. Till the time the police do not do their primary work which is the crime investigation they will not earn the credibility of the people. Police work is to secure the life and liberty of people. Many policemen even do not know about the D K Basu guidelines. Even many officers do not know about them. Police are illiterate about the law.

If someone is faxing or telephoning to inform regarding commission of a cognizable crime, police must write it in the general diary and if one has proof that he has given first information of a cognizable crime being committed he can go to court for action and action against the police official who has refused to lodge the FIR.

Ravi Kiran Jain, PUCL

The aberrations in the police system that we are talking about are symptom of bad governance. Unless the bad governance is addressed, all other measures would prove to be adhoc and would not lead to lasting change. The SC directives can not get you reforms and ground level improvement. Governance has to be guided by part four, the directive principles of the constitution.

I C Dwedi, former DGP

In police there is a serious problem of competence in investigation skills. I have spent 19 years doing only investigation. Investigation is a skill and you need to do a lot of it to be good at it.

There needs to be social audits conducted on implementation of reforms.

There is a need of Lucknow based monitoring committee for this purpose. Technical knowledge can be provided by retired officers like Dwivediji, Darapuri, Manzoorji and Darapuriji supported by a large number of civil society groups in state capital.

Ajit, Guriya

Monitoring committee is fine but reality is that human rights defenders get attacked regularly and threatened by police. How will the monitoring committee tackle this reality. This should also be one of the tasks of the committee. Our organization got 5000 girls released who were being trafficked into prostitution. The people of organizations were in turn charged with raping some girls. This was done at the behest of people who were behind the business of trafficking. Local Goondas regularly threaten on behalf of police and false cases are registered against us. This is the reality for the dedicated organization workers right now.

How will this real risk be addressed?

S N Shukla , Lok Prahari

Government of India should taker concrete measures. These measures are not dependent on the Supreme Court's directives. I P S services rules can be amended to make the DGP post tenured like post of the Cabinet secretary, Home secretary, CBI chief and others. The power to suspend the IPS officers should be taken away from the states as they misuse it. One RTI request found out that in last two years 35 IPS officers were suspended, out of which 34 were reinstated and six of them were reinstated without punishment or any penalty.

Sandeep Pande, Asha Parivar

The agenda of the state level coordination committee that is being considered should be a broad human rights agenda. After knowing about the status of the new police Act and if possible meeting the Police Act Drafting Committee members we should send our inputs to this committee.

The consensus in the meeting was that a state level coordination committee under the convener ship of Sh Darapuri be formed. Its other members are Sh. Dwediji , Shuklaji and Asha ji is special invitee. The district level conveners are also its members. The committee will in particular shall monitor police related malpractices that could be compiled and used for advocacy purpose of police reform in the state.

The District Level Conveners:

Saiyed Ahmad	Lucknow
Moh. Saiyed:	Lucknow
Sangeeta	Lucknow
Nirmala	Saharanpur
Namita Singh	Allahabad, Pratapgarh
Prabhat Kumar Tripathi	Kanpur
Gita Singh	Sitapur , Hardoi
Ajit	Banaras and adjoining areas

Kumkum Tripathi will provide inputs on 16 districts where her organization’s network is active.

CHRI Actions

- compile minutes’
- Make a distribution list of all present
- Circulate minutes
- disseminate any information regarding UP
- Fix a meeting with UP police reforms commission
- Dwivedi Ji to send us names & contacts of these people
- Izhar Ansari Ji will get us appointment with chairperson of this commission

Next Step

After sending minutes, group may meet as a committee to decide on priorities
District representatives to monitor cases of police malpractices and document in their district and feed it to the state committee for use in advocacy.