**Contact Details**

Please provide your contact details in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey. Note that this is optional. (edited for public release)

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| --- | --- |
| Type of Stakeholder (please select one) | Civil Society Group or Organisation |
| Name of Stakeholder/Organization (if applicable)  Name of Survey Respondent | DHRD Net |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Address |  |
| Can we attribute responses to this questionnaire to you or your organization publicly? | Yes  Comments (if any): DHRD Net is (Dalit Human Rights Defenders Network) network of civil society organisations working in India. The response can be attributed to DHRDNet. |

Questionnaire:

1) Have you, any of your colleagues or your organization received online/offline threats and

attacks since 1 January 2019 up 30 June 2020?

Yes. The fellow human rights defender was attacked by perpetrators on 27/05/2020. He latter succumbed to the injuries on 29/05/2020. He was an independent human rights defender and was working mostly in individual capacity though was associated with the political party.

2) If yes, can you please detail and in the case of Facebook preferably provide screenshot

with URL?

The incidence of attack is mentioned below in answer to question number 3.

3) Did any of these threats/attacks escalate into killings - can you please chart the path as you see it?

Mr. Arvind Bansod, the human rights defender and a bright student was killed by a perpetrator from the dominant caste. The incidence as it is perceived by family members is as follows:

1. When Mr. Avinash, the victim, visited a nearby village, namely, Thadi Pawani, which is five k.m. away from his village named Pimpaldhara, he had some dispute with the accused named Mr. Mayur Umarkar. Mr. Mayur Umarkar has gas agency and it was claimed that Mr. Avinash was taking pictures of his agency and the illegal activities affiliated to it.
2. His friend accompanying him was sent back home by the victim for some work and meanwhile the dispute escalated.
3. Later the friend who was accompanying the victim received a call from the village, where the incident occured, that the victim had consumed poison.
4. By the time he reaches the spot, the perpetrators take Mr. Arvind to the nearby Primary Health Care Centre situated at Jalalkheda.
5. He (the victim) was referred to another PHC at Katol. Till this point the accused were taking him (the victim) to the health centres. But when he was referred to Medical College (Tertiary health care centre), he was accompanied by his younger brother in an ambulance.
6. It was difficult for the victim to talk. But he told the brother that he was beaten badly and was forced to consume poison.
7. Within a day the victim succumbed to the injuries and poison.
8. It is highly possible that he was forced to take poison.

4) Have any of your colleagues been killed since 1 January 2019 up to 30 June 2020?

Yes. Mr. Avinash Bansod was killed on 29th May 2020.

5) If so in what context did the killing(s) occur? Have there been any convictions for the

killing(s)?

1. Avinash was one of the few bright students in the area.
2. He was from Scheduled Caste background (which is marginalised category and is being targeted by oppressive caste due to caste discrimination).
3. Through constitutional means he was bringing out matters of corruption at various levels. He was also helping victims in applying for various government schemes. He has noticed that the alleged accused was involved in corruption and was taking money from people for gas cylinders which were meant to be free under government scheme.
4. The police have completed the investigation in the case and it is claimed by the police that the victim consumed the poison and it was suiside.
5. Police investigation has charged accused with abetment of suicide. It is claimed that the quarrel between victim and accused has led to the suicide.
6. However, the victim was a human rights defender and was also attached with a political party and there was no reason for him to consume the poison.
7. The dying declaration given by the victim to the brother clearly indicates that he was forced to consume poison.
8. Main accused was in custody for two days and was immediately released on bail.

6) Do you normally report death threats? If so, where?

Yes. To the investigation agency. Specifically, the local police station of the state police department.

7) What in your/Organization’s experience has worked well to respond to death threats? And

to prevent them from escalating into the actual killing(s) of human rights defenders?

* Immediate response by the state police to the death threat in form of Police protection to the HRD and action against perpetrators.