



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Global Welfare Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



India: Judicial harassment of Laishram Herojit Singh, aka Shintha

The arbitrary detention, subsequent release on bail, and ongoing judicial harassment of Laishram Herojit Singh, aka Shintha, a human rights defender working on the promotion of the right to health and the Secretary-General of the Coalition Against Drug and Alcohol, in Thoubal District, Manipur State.

On April 7, 2021, at 2 pm, a group of around 18 policemen from the Thoubal Police Station arbitrarily arrested Shintha at his home in Thoubal, Thoubal District, without producing a warrant and in the presence of his parents and neighbours. Shintha was subsequently taken to the Thoubal Police Station, where he was hit in the face by the police inspector after he refused to sign the arrest memo. The document falsely stated that Shintha was a member of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF).

On April 8, 2021, Shintha appeared before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate of Thoubal and was charged under Section 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on the basis of a First Information Report (FIR) lodged by the Thoubal police. The FIR alleged that Shintha was arrested in the city of Wangjing, Thoubal District, where he was accused of carrying out operations as an overground worker for the UNLF. Shintha denied the accusations and was subsequently remanded to police custody for four days. On April 12, 2021, Shintha was released on bail pending trial.

It underlines that four hours before his arrest on April 7, Shintha had attended a peaceful gathering organised by CADA to protest against the recent acquittal of the former chairman of the Autonomous District Council of Moreh, who had been arrested in 2018 in connection with a drug haul case.

We strongly condemn the arbitrary detention, judicial harassment, and acts of ill-treatment against Shintha, which seem to be aimed at punishing him for his peaceful and legitimate human rights activities.

My organisation reiterates its concern over the misuse of the UAPA by the Indian authorities to target human rights defenders and silence dissent, and condemns all acts of harassment and persecution of human rights defenders in India.

We urge this council and to ask the Indian government to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against Shintha and put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders in the country.
