

*Custodial Death in Channagiri: A Fact Finding Report*

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**Executive Summary**

On 24 May 2024, in Channagiri a person died while detained on gambling charge. His family was unaware until the post-mortem. His death sparked large protests outside the police station, where crowds demonstrated in protest against suspected police brutality. A few people in the crowd threw stones at police and vehicles. In response, FIRs were filed against 300 people for unlawful assembly, rioting, and causing harm. 47 people were arrested. The CID took over the investigation into the custodial death.

Concerned about the situation, members of many civil society groups, the All India Lawyers Association for Justice, Association for the Protection of Civil Rights, Bahutva Karnataka, and People's Union for Civil Liberties Karnataka, constituted a fact-finding team to investigate the custodial death and the subsequent events.

The team here presents a report on the case. The report is in seven sections. Section 1 gives a background to the case. Section 2 summarizes interviews of the various people the team spoke with. This includes the family of the deceased, police officials, witnesses to the demonstrations and families of those who were arrested in the aftermath. Section 3 describes the timeline of events based on official documents and interviews. Section 4 analyzes official documents associated with the case. Section 5 outlines the relevant questions of law. Section 6 summarizes the findings of the team, and Section 7 provides a list of demands.

The report shows that there were crucial procedural lapses in arrest and documentation. These lapses undermined the victim's constitutional protections. The place and time of arrest is inconsistent. Lack of documentation led to a lack of transparency in a very serious issue. The victim's family is now without their earning member. The mass arrests following the custodial death reflect procedural violations. The mass arrests have left many poor families economically vulnerable.

The report calls for immediate relief of the family of the deceased, measures to help those accused in the subsequent protest, demands for the inquiry and demands to address the systemic issues highlighted by this case. It calls for a comprehensive compensation package for Adil's

family, including immediate financial aid, long-term support, educational assistance for his children, and employment opportunities for his spouse. We also demand an investigation into the adherence to due process in the mass arrests that followed, the quashing of proceedings against protestors, and legal and financial redress for affected families.