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European Union – Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - People's Watch
NATIONAL PROJECT ON PREVENTING TORTURE IN INDIA
From Public Awareness to State Accountability

Announcement of Mukundan Menon Media Fellowships
For
Working Journalists in the Print Media

India is a member of the newly formed UN Human Rights Council in Geneva with 173 votes. Therefore, it is essential that India takes immediate and urgent steps to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocols I and II, and legislate a National Law against Torture.

Torture, being the worst form of human rights violation, is very much prevalent in India and is directed at the weakest and the poor in society. A National Project has been initiated by European Union (EU), Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt) and People's Watch - a human rights organization.

The Project aims to initiate and model a National Campaign for the prevention of torture in India with a specific focus on torture practices routinely deployed by the arm of the State that is the police.

This National Project is being implemented in Nine States (Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka).

Peoples Watch, the implementing organization of the Project, is announcing Media Fellowships in the memory of the late Mr. Mukundan Menon in Nine regional language media (Three Hindi, one Bengali, one Oriya, one Tamil, one Malayalam, one Telugu and one Kannada) at the State level and One Fellowship at the National level for the English Media.

The Fellowships are for a period of 20 months beginning April 1, 2007 and ending in November 2008.

The Fellowships will be awarded to those journalists who are working in leading newspapers, magazines and human rights journals. The working journalists should be in the age group of 30-40 years, and should have written a number of articles covering human rights issues.

The selected journalists will be commissioned to write in-depth feature articles on a variety of topics covering torture, including individual cases of abuse, legal interventions, public hearings, legislative initiatives, visibility programmes, etc. and are also expected to conduct in depth research for the final publication.

The Fellowship amount would be Rs 5,000/- per month for the State Fellows (regional language) and Rs 10, 000/- per month for the National Fellow.

Interested journalists should send their applications with a write-up of not less than 1,000 words on any one of the following issues

- ❖ Police and Custodial Torture in Prisons and Lockups
- ❖ Caste Discrimination and related torture,
- ❖ Violence against Women,
- ❖ Corporal Punishment

The applicants will also need to write a brief 500-word note on why they are interested in the topic and what they wish to cover.

The application, which should contain details of the work experience of the journalists along with the write-up, should reach following e-mail id, no2torture@pwtn.org on or before February 15, 2007.