



## **NCW Fact Finding Team questions role of father in the incident of gang-rape of 5 NGO workers at gunpoint in Khunti, Jharkhand**

### **PRESS NOTE**

**New Delhi, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2018:** The National Commission for Women (NCW), after taking suo-motu cognizance of the media reports relating to the gang-rape of NGO workers in Khunti District in Jharkhand that occurred on 19.06.2018, constituted a three-member Fact Finding Team on 22.06.2018

On the basis of this, the NCW team arrived in Khunti, Jharkhand on 23.06.2018. The team had a detailed meeting with the District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Chairperson and Member of the Jharkhand State Commission for Women, Block Development Officer and Sub Divisional Police Officer on 23.06.2018. Thereafter, the NCW team along with representatives of the Jharkhand State Commission for Women met all the five victims separately.

The team also interacted with the two sisters/nuns who had accompanied the survivors to the Kochang area. Details of action taken by State administration were also scrutinized by the Fact Finding Team. Based on the interactions, the role of Father Alfonso Aiend in the incident has been questioned by the team.

#### **The team has submitted its report and the findings are as follows:**

- (i)** The situation had by and large been handled in an efficient and professional manner by the administration and police authorities, notwithstanding the continuous pressure from the media.
- (ii)** It is apparent that the incident was pre-planned and had been executed in a professional manner. Further, it also casts serious doubts about the conduct of Father Aiend, who not only asked to spare only two women (sisters/nuns), but also failed to inform the authorities about the abduction of the Nukad Natak team members. He also persuaded the victims to not disclose the facts to anyone. It is, therefore, considered that he has definitely acted contrary to the legal requirements and possibly connived with the accused in committing the crime
- (iii)** The police authorities informed that due to the Pathalgarhi movement, there were difficulties in reaching the area to locate the accused.
- (iv)** The administration has provided quick welfare assistance to the victims and all victims are safety housed by the District Administration and their identities had not been disclosed.
- (v)** One Lac Rupees had been sanctioned and Rs. 5 Lac Rupees has been proposed to be provided to the victims as compensation.
- (vi)** The police authorities are making efforts to trace the remaining criminals involved. Police had also released a sketch of one of the five accused and announced a reward of Rs. 50,000 for providing information about them.
- (vii)** During the interaction between the NCW team and the victims on 23.06.2018, it was noticed that the victims were in a traumatic condition after the horrific incident and would need proper rehabilitation and support.