

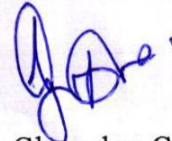
W.B. HUMAN RIGHTS  
COMMISSION  
KOLKATA-27

File No. 141 /WBHCRC/SMC/2018

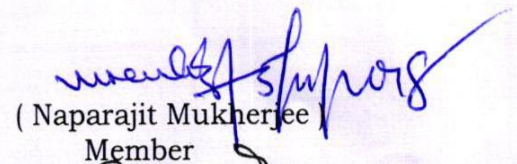
Date: 05. 11. 2018

Enclosed is the news clipping of 'The Statesman,' an English daily dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2018, the news item is captioned " **Truckers thrashed by youths demanding Kali Puja Subscription**".

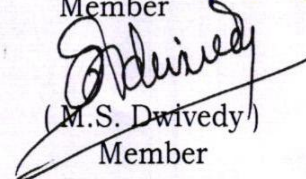
Superintendent of Police, Burdwan(East) is directed to enquire into the matter and to furnish a report to the Commission by 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.



(Justice Girish Chandra Gupta)  
Chairperson



(Napanarajit Mukherjee)  
Member



(M.S. Dwivedy)  
Member

Encl: News Item Dt. 03.11.2018

# Truckers thrashed by youths demanding Kali Puja subscription

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
BURDWAN, 2 NOVEMBER

Operators of goods carrier vehicles are facing problems in several locations in Burdwan (East) as youths at different points are forcing them to halt for hours when they fail to pay hefty amounts in Kali puja-subscriptions.

Today, the driver of a goods container vehicle was badly thrashed by some youths and the vehicle also was ransacked at Telipukur crossing in Burdwan town as the driver pleaded his inability to pay the hefty subscription amount demanded.

The accused youths fled the area before a police contingent arrived the spot. The youths, according to the police, had been deployed by a local puja committee.

Telipukur - a parking place for highway and local destination lorries on the Burdwan-Arambagh road, according to the drivers, has become a safe haven of puja organisers some of whom are actually physical assaulting the lorry drivers and helpers every now and then when they fail to meet their demand for exorbitant Kali puja subscription.

"A group of youths approached a lorry driver for Rs 500 cash subscription, which he was unable to pay. The driver told them that he could pay a maximum of Rs 50," said Tarashankar Singh, a driver.

Within moments, he said: "the youths dragged the driver out of the crew and thrashed him badly in front of others." The driver later was shifted to the Burdwan Medical College and Hospital.

It was just five days ago that a lorry driver had suffered a fractured head after being

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thrashed by a group of youths asking for puja subscriptions at Dignagar in Burdwan (East).

Today, the aggrieved lorry drivers parked a lorry in the middle of the Burdwan-Arambagh road to mark their protest against the growing incidents of assault by the puja organisers.

This resulted in traffic congestion as passenger buses, school buses and other vehicles were stranded due to the stir.

Last Tuesday, the police arrested two youths, Haradhan Bairagya and Nachu Das from Bijoyram locality in Burdwan town, for their alleged involvement in forcible collection of puja subscriptions from the lorries plying on Burdwan-Katwa road.

The police received many such complaints from Ichalabad, Alamgunj and Telipukur in last one week. The police also received some tip offs that a group of youths armed with rods were attacking truckers at Talit crossing on NH 2B - the National Highway connecting Burdwan and Suri.