W.B. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION KOLKATA-27

File No. 163/WBHRC/SMC/2018

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Enclosed is the news clipping of 'The Times of India,' an English daily dated 20th December, 2018, the news item is captioned " Traffic cop slapped me: Woman files complaint".

Commissioner of Police, Kolkata is directed to enquire into the matter and to furnish a report to the Commission by 25th January, 2019.

> (Justice Girish Chandra Gupta) Chairperson

Member

## Traffic cop slapped me: Woman files complaint

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Kolkata: A senior executive of an international advisory, broking and solutions company at Apeejay House on Park Street alleged she was slapped by a traffic policeman in front of her office

on Wednesday evening. In her complaint lodged at the Park Street police station, the woman (45) claimed she was trying to board an app cab she had booked, when the traffic cop asked the driver to move ahead without letting her and her colleagues in. "I ran behind the car from Apeejay House till Olypub but found the cop constantly shooing the car ahead, without letting the driver pick us up. I shouted at the cop, pleading him to stop but he didn't listen. I ran up to him and as he had his back to us, I tugged at his jacket to draw his attention and that is

## PARK ST ROW

when he turned and slapped me. He slapped me so hard I had almost collapsed to the ground," said the eastern region zonal head of the multinational firm.

The incident took place around 7.30pm when the Russa Road resident was headed home. "I have been working here for the past two decades and have seen the tall, dark middle aged officer earlier. When my colleagues asked for an explanation, he was least apologetic and claimed I had done something illegal by touching his uniform and so, he had hit me," the woman said. "I felt humiliated and traumatised."

An officer from the Park

An officer from the Park Street police station said they had started a probe. "The accused officer doesn't belong to the police station and is part of the traffic wing," he said. A senior officer at the South Traffic Guard, in charge of manning traffic on Park Street, told **TOI** he had heard about it from another officer but was yet to know the exact incident.

## Park Street executive says cop slapped her

## OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Calcutta: An assistant vicepresident of a company waiting for an app cab on the way home from work has said she was slapped by a policeman on Park Street when she patted him on the shoulder to tell him that the car he was shooing away was the one she had booked.

The woman, who works with a global advisory and broking solutions company, has filed a complaint at Park Street police station.

The FIR does not name the policeman as his jacket had covered his nametag. But a colleague of the woman had taken on a mobile the picture of the policeman, which has been given to the police.

The alleged incident took place in front of pedestrians and motorists who were passing by around 7.35pm on Wednesday.

Another woman who said she was passing by told The

Telegraph: "I saw the officer slap her. Initially, I thought it was an accident and the cop would apologise immediately. But instead of any apologies, he kept on saying to the woman, 'aapni ekta police-er gaye hath dite paren na (you cannot touch a policeman). The woman appeared to be in deep shock. The policeman continued to be rude and aggressive."

The woman who was allegedly slapped said she "felt sick" after the assault and found it difficult to walk even a few hundred meters to Park Street police station. One of her colleagues who was with her arranged for a car to take her to the police station.

The woman said she and her colleagues had stepped out of their office in Apeejay House and were waiting for the car when the alleged incident happened.

"As the Uber was coming through Russell Street, we moved a little ahead towards Olypub. As the car appeared and I tried to reach for it, a police officer who was posted there used his lathi to prevent the Uber from stopping there. I was right there trying to tell the policeman that it was my car and I would board it but he would not listen. In a desperate motion to draw the attention of the cop, I patted his shoulder. He turned the very next moment and slapped me," she said later in the evening.

The woman, who knew a senior officer in Lalbazar, called him up and narrated the incident. Then she started for the police station, which was about 400 metres away. However, she failed to walk after a few steps.

"Everything around me blurred. I still could not believe I had been subjected to such violence for no fault of mine," she said.

Her letter of complaint was accepted and a formal case has been started.

Deputy commissioner (south) Meeraj Khalid said: "We are inquiring into the matter."