

URGENT ACTION

DALIT FAMILY TO BE PROVIDED WITH PROTECTION

The Supreme Court in India has ordered the Delhi police to provide protection to two sisters and their family after they fled their village in Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh, fearing for their safety. The sisters had been ordered to be raped by the unelected all-male village council, which led to an international outcry and a huge number of appeals from Amnesty International activists.

On 16 September the Supreme Court of India ordered the Delhi Police to provide 23-year-old **Meenakshi Kumari**, her 15-year-old sister, and the rest of their family with protection, as they are currently living in Delhi and are fearful of returning to their village. Although the family do not yet feel it is safe to return to their village, the Supreme Court decision is a positive development and they are very grateful for all those that took action on their behalf.

On 24 May, the family fled their village in Baghpat district fearing violence after their brother eloped with a married woman from a *Jat* (dominant caste) family. On 30 May, their house in the village was ransacked. On 30 July, members of a village *khap panchayat*— an unelected all-male village council - ordered that Meenakshi Kumari and her sister be raped and paraded naked, with their faces blackened, as punishment for the actions of their brother.

Many thanks to all those who took action. We will continue to monitor their situation and take other action to support their family as appropriate, but no more action is required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 186/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa20/2316/2015/en/>

Name: Meenakshi Kumari (f) and her family

Gender m/f: Both

Further information on UA: 186/15 Index: ASA 20/2468/2015 Issue Date: 18 September 2015

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