

Punjab Police Assault NHRC Demands DGP Report

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The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of an assault on a journalist by two Punjab Police officers in Batala, Gurdaspur district, and has sought a detailed report from the state director general of police (DGP).

The NHRC acted after reviewing a media report highlighting the incident, stating that, if verified, it raises serious concerns regarding human rights violations. An official release

noted that the commission has issued a notice to the DGP, requesting a full report within two weeks. The report is expected to cover the status of the investigation and the medical condition of the journalist.

The attack reportedly occurred on August 1 and drew widespread attention after a video of the incident circulated on social media. In the footage, one officer in uniform and another in plain clothes are seen dragging and punching the journalist on a busy street in Batala. The uniformed officer allegedly kicked the journalist, causing him to fall onto the road and remain motionless in a puddle while the policemen walked away.

Authorities said the officers were deployed in Batala for law-and-order duties ahead of Independence Day celebrations. According to reports, the journalist had asked the officers questions regarding their presence, which allegedly provoked the assault.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Kumar confirmed that the two policemen involved were identified as Sub-Inspectors Surjit and Mandeep Singh, both members of the 5th Battalion of Punjab Police Commandos stationed in Bathinda. The officers have been suspended pending further investigation.

The NHRC's intervention underscores growing concerns over press freedom and accountability in law enforcement. The commission's notice emphasizes the need for a transparent and timely investigation, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable while safeguarding the rights and safety of journalists in India.

This case has reignited discussions about the treatment of media personnel in public spaces and the mechanisms in place to prevent such incidents. Human rights experts note that swift and transparent responses from law enforcement agencies are critical to maintaining public trust and upholding fundamental freedoms.

As the investigation continues, the focus remains on ensuring that the journalist receives appropriate medical care and that procedural measures are followed to address the misconduct. The NHRC's demand for a report within two weeks reflects the urgency of the matter and the importance of enforcing accountability in cases of alleged abuse of authority.