

**Interactive Dialogue with Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (20th September): Mr. Santosh Mehra**

Madam President,

NHRC India is mandated to promote and protect human rights in the country and ensure that public servants perform their duties as per the laid down Constitutional provisions and laws of the land. Any omission/negligence on the part of a public servant in this regard, is viewed as violation of human rights and NHRC India takes necessary action.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution provides for Right to life & liberty. Any violation by public authority infringing upon Fundamental Rights (including Human Rights) enumerated in Chapter III of our Constitution can be taken cognizance of by the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 and the High Courts in States under Article 226 of Constitution of India and also the NHRC. Article 22 also ensures protection against arrest and detention in certain cases.

NHRC India carries out a number of activities for protection of Human Rights. To name a few

- It conducts spot enquiries in cases of illegal detention and extra judicial killings by the police.

- Organizes training programs/courses etc in police training institutes and other fora to spread human rights literacy and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of the human rights.

- Organizes an annual National level debate competition for Central Armed Police Forces and funds State Police Forces for similar events.

The Commission has also laid down a set of detailed guidelines to be adopted at the police stations during “arrests”.

Thank you.