

## Harmara Case

1998 - 2017

*Attack on RTI activists for demanding information from the Sarpanch of Harmara*

S. no	Date	Incident
1.	January 1998	The Sangathan was told about complaints of corruption and the difficulties faced by villagers regarding non-payment of wages in developmental works by the Sarpanch of Harmara panchayat
2.	06.02.1998	We took a right to information application for Pyarelal Tank, Sarpanch of Harmara to the panchayat office. Even though we tried repeatedly to contact him, the Sarpanch refused to receive the application for information.
3.	27.02.1998	We took this application for information and gave it to the Developmental Officer, Silora
4.	Feb 1998 – April 1998	Regarding this information we visited the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad and Zila Collector 73 times.
5.	23.04.1998	The Development Officer wrote a letter to the Sarpanch directing him to release the information. Following this letter we received a letter in the name of Ram Karan and were told to contact the Sarpanch regarding the aforementioned records and information we had asked for.
6.	06.05.1998	With this letter Naurti, Nikhil, Ram Karan, Babulal and Chotu Lal went to meet with the Sarpanch Pyarelal. The Sarpanch and his family physically assaulted and abused them. Following this assault Aruna Roy wrote and faxed a letter to the District Collector, the SP, Chief Secretary and the General Secretary of PUCL. Aruna Roy had also called the District Collector immediately. The letter was shared with the media and news items appeared in the papers the next day.
7.	08.05.1998	Naurti filed an FIR under sections 341, 34, 323, 504, 143 of the SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, regarding the physical assault and abuse meted out by the Sarpanch and his family in the Bandarsindhri police station. FIR no. 50/98 dated 08.05.98
8.	08.05.1998	Two days later, Pyarelal the Sarpanch filed an FIR against the activists in the Bandarsindhri police station under sections 323, 451 and 504 of the IPC. FIR no 48/98 dated 08.05.98
9.	30.06.1998	The police filed a final report in FIR no. 48/98 dated 08.05.98. Final Report (FR) no. 22/98 dated 30.06.98
10.	05.07.2001	Three years later, Pyarelal got the Final Report dated 30.06.98 reopened.
11.		A final report had been filed in Naurti's case (FIR no. 50/98) and she did not get it reopened.
12.	13.06.2017	The Munsif Magistrate Court delivered its judgment convicting the Right to Information activists under section 451 and 323 sentencing them to a total sentence of 5 months and a fine of Rs. 200