

# Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Annual Report 2006 - India

- Document source: [International Federation for Human Rights](http://www.refworld.org)
- Date: 14 March 2007

**Source:** www.refworld.org

## Acts of harassment against MASUM

On November 10, 2006, the headquarters of *Manabadhikar Suraksha Mancha* (MASUM), a human rights organisation working in India and South Asia and specialised in denouncing torture, were searched by a policeman from the District Intelligence Branch Department (DIB) in Howrah, West Bengal. During the search, the policeman enquired about the organisation's activities and its registration certificate, and asked for the name and contact details of its managers. The only employee presents at the time refused to give the information and asked the officer to come back later.

On November 21, 2006, another search was carried out at the MASUM headquarters by the same policeman, who was looking for more information on the organisation. He notably wrote down the address of Mr. **Kirity Roy**, MASUM secretary general, and asked for the association's registration certificate.

Mr. Roy was present during the search. When he asked the police officer for a search warrant, the policeman replied that he was obeying orders from the chief inspector of the West Bengal police. He then left the premises, saying that he would bring the warrant at a later time.

Mr. Roy received a telephone call shortly afterwards, summoning him to a meeting with the deputy police superintendent at the DIB office in Howrah. When Mr. Roy asked him to send a written summons, the police officer hung up.

On December 9, 2005, Mr. Kirity Roy had already been arrested by the police in Lal Bazar, Calcutta, West Bengal, along with 21 people, including Mr. **Abhijit Datta**, MASUM assistant secretary, Mr. **Pradip Mukherjee**, a MASUM employee, Mr. **Nirmal Karmakar**, secretary of the Deganga unit of the Association for the Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), Mr. **Phanigopal Battacharjee**, secretary of Indo-Japan Steels Workers' Union, and **Mr. Dipankar Mitra, a member of the Calcutta section of ActionAid**. At the time, they were peacefully protesting in front of the secretariat of the government of West Bengal using banners to denounce cases of human rights violations committed by police officers. All of these persons were detained at the Lal Bazar police station before being released three hours later without charge.

=====  
=====  
=====  
=====  
=====