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Dalit girl paraded naked in Mumbai

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MUMBAI: Cases of attacks on dalit women aren't confined to rural India: last month, a young dalit girl was stripped and paraded in a southern Mumbai locality. The local police has arrested 10 women and two men and slapped them with cases of atrocities. However, Sharada Yadav, the main accused, is out on bail.

Said senior police inspector Rajan Bhogale: "All the suspects named by the victim, including Sharada Yadav, were arrested in the case. We charged them under the Prevention of Atrocities Act. But Sharda Yadav was granted bail by the court." The 22-year-old dalit girl Mita Kamble (name changed), who was stripped and dragged out of her house at Darukhana, Reay Road, by a mob of mostly women, said: "They all shouted that dalits like me should not live in this area. They kept hurling abuses on me."

What led to the incident was rape of a five-year-old child, allegedly by Mita's brother, a watchman at the ship-breaking yard, on June 16. Vijay Kamble (34) was arrested by the Sewri police. "While stripping me, Sharada Yadav and another woman kept shouting that I would have to pay for my brother's crime," said Mita.

On the other hand, the five-year-old girl who was raped returned home on Friday after she underwent two surgeries in J J Hospital. Several organisations and social workers recently held a rally and demanded the police to hold some counselling sessions for the residents.

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