

Case: The Haryana gang rapes

In recent months, numerous Dalit women and underage girls have been raped, often with extreme brutality, in the Indian state of Haryana. While women from other social groups have also been the victims of rape, Dalit women are particularly vulnerable to such crimes. One Dalit rights organisation has estimated that the vast majority of crimes against Dalit women are not reported due to fear of social ostracism and threats to personal safety and security.

In one of the most publicised cases, a 16-year old Dalit girl was gang-raped for three hours by at least seven men – mostly from a dominant caste - in the village of Dabra, Hisar district, on 9 September. The perpetrators filmed the incident with their cell phones. Nine days later, as he discovered what had happened to his daughter, her father committed suicide. Only when faced with mass protests, did the police decide to take action against the suspected perpetrators.

This and other attacks prompted a newspaper commentator to write the following in The Hindu: “If you are a poor woman who is raped, you cannot even imagine a life where there will be justice. If you are a poor woman and a Dalit, then the chances of justice are even slimmer.”

The victims of these attacks have suffered numerous violations of their human rights, including the right to physical security and life, the right to be free from violence and the right to be free from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Apart from the trauma of the rape itself, many survivors face other serious difficulties, including callous treatment by the police and being ostracised and threatened in their villages.

News reports and analysis – Haryana rapes:

[The Haryana horrors](#) (Deccan Chronicle)

[Hisar’s shame](#) (Frontline)

[A village rape shatters a family](#) (New York Times)

[Lost in Haryana’s rape debate – a girl’s story](#) (The Hindu)

[Haryana’s bestial rape chronicles](#) (Tehelka)

[In Haryana, more and more rapes every year](#) (Indian Express)

[In Haryana, hundreds protest state’s response](#) (India Ink)

[Just a number](#) (The Hindu)

Other information – Haryana rapes:

[Violence against Dalit women](#) (AIDMAM)

[Dalit women activists on Haryana](#) (dalitweb.org)

[Dalit solidarity march in Haryana](#) (dalitweb.org)

[Human rights defender Asha Kowtal speaks on the Haryana rapes](#) (youtube.com)

[Rape has been the favourite weapon of the dominant castes](#) (Round Table India)

[Fact finding report: Gang rape of Dalit girl](#) (NCDHR)

[Haryana rape cases: A detailed report](#) (Pratirodh Bureau)

[IDSN page on the Haryana rapes](#)

This case briefing has been prepared by the International Dalit Solidarity Network (www.idsn.org)