

Issue Date: Friday , May 28 , 2010

Couple stoned to death for caste defiance

G.S. RADHAKRISHNA

Nizamabad, May 27: A Dalit father of two and his upper-caste lover were allegedly stoned to death in an Andhra village in a suspected honour killing case being dubbed the state's first.

The bodies of S. Sunkari Srinivas, 32, and Swapna Reddy, 22, bearing injury marks caused by stone hits, were found on the outskirts of Krishnajiwadi village in Nizamabad district last night, police said. The attackers were alleged relatives of Swapna, who could not accept her relationship with a married man from a lower caste.

The couple had got married this January in Tirupati, apparently on the sly, but returned to the village a couple of days back in the hope of being able to convince their relatives to accept the relationship, the police said.

According to neighbours, there were a lot of arguments and heated exchanges at Swapna's home all of yesterday. At one point, the relatives of the girl dragged the couple out of their house and allegedly started stoning them as the villagers watched in horror. "Show no mercy and kill them," one of Swapna's brothers was heard telling the attackers.

The bodies were found late in the night, dumped on a roadside on the outskirts of the village. Sub-inspector V. Vijay Kumar confirmed the bodies bore injuries caused by stone hits and that the couple had died almost immediately.

Nizamabad police chief K. Venkateshwara Rao said Swapna's relatives had stoned them to death and that a probe was on. No arrests have been made so far.

Strangely enough, Srinivas's first wife Padma, 27, appeared to have accepted his relationship with Swapna. "He had always been a wayward husband and beat me whenever I asked him (about his affairs)," the police quoted Padma as saying.

The killings were said to have sparked tension between the Dalits and upper castes in the village. A police picket has been posted.

Although the incident is possibly a first in Andhra, social tensions are not new in the state's rural areas, dominated by the land-owning upper castes such as the Reddys, Kammas and Velamas. Inter-caste marriages are almost taboo.

Only last week, an inter-caste couple were invited by relatives and served poisoned sweets in Karimnagar, the police said. The pair survived as friends were quick to suspect foul play when the two collapsed and rushed them to hospital.

Earlier, an upper caste groom was beaten unconscious by his relatives at the wedding venue before his Dalit bride and scores of guests.





Print This Article

Permission to reprint or copy this article or photo must be obtained from www.3dsyndication.com.

Couple stoned to death in Andhra Pradesh

K V Ramana / DNA
Friday, May 28, 2010 1:45

In an act resembling the honour killings in Haryana and other north Indian states at the behest of khap panchayats, a group of about 30 people stoned an upper caste woman and her scheduled caste "husband" to death at Krishnajiwadi village in Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh. Only that in this case, the village panchayat was not involved.

Three people have been arrested in connection with the macabre incident that occurred late on Wednesday night, police said on Thursday.

The accused are suspected to be relatives of the woman, Swapna Reddy, 22, who had eloped with and married Sunkara Srinivas, 32, six months ago. Swapna's family was against the alliance as Srinivas was from a lower caste and already married. He had two children from his first wife.

The newlyweds lived in Hyderabad for sometime as Srinivas was working as a computer operator in a private firm there. They were called back to the village by Swapna's relatives on the pretext of discussing some issues three days ago. Following an argument, they started thrashing Srinivas. When Swapna tried to protect him, they attacked her as well. The couple was later stoned to death.

"The girl's relatives attacked the couple when it was sleeping at around 10.30 pm on Wednesday. The couple was dragged on to the road and hit with boulders," Nizamabad superintendent of police K Venkateshwara Rao said. Their bodies were found on the outskirts of the village.

Rao said Swapna had gone missing from the village last year, after which her father had lodged a missing complaint. The complaint was, however, withdrawn after she returned home after one-and-half-month.

"She once again went missing after staying in the village for about a month and returned only a week ago with Srinivas. They had been staying together in Hyderabad for the past nine months," Rao said.

"It was a private dispute," a source familiar with the developments said, ruling out village panchayat role.
(With agency inputs)

[About us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Subscription](#) | [Reprint rights](#)

© 2005-2010 Diligent Media Corporation Ltd. All rights reserved.

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Couple stoned to death in Andhra Pradesh

IANS, May 27, 2010, 10.57am IST

Call India - EUR 0.01/min - 750 minutes for EUR 10.00 15 free text messages on top
www.vopium.com

Ads by Google

HYDERABAD: A couple, who had eloped and married, was stoned to death in what appears to be a case of honour killing in Andhra Pradesh's Nizamabad district.

Irate residents of Krishnajivadi village rained stones on the couple after tying them to a pole, police said on Thursday.

The macabre incident occurred late Wednesday night in Telangana region, about 250 km from Hyderabad.

Sunkara Srinivas, 32, belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC), and 22-year-old Swapna Reddy, belonging to an upper caste, had eloped and married six months ago.

Swapna's family was against the alliance as Srinivas was from a lower caste and already married. He had two children from his first wife.

The newly married couple lived in Hyderabad for sometime as Srinivas was working as a computer operator in a private firm.

They returned to the village three days ago. Swapna's relatives called the couple on the pretext of discussing some issues. Following an argument, they started thrashing Srinivas and when Swapna tried to protect him, they attacked her as well.

The couple was then tied to a pole and the attackers, numbering about 30, pelted stones on them leading to their death.

Police have registered a case and arrested three people.

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

THE TIMES OF INDIAPowered by *INDIATIMES*

[About us](#) [Advertise with us](#) [Terms of use](#) [Privacy policy](#) [Feedback](#)
[RSS](#) [Newsletter](#) [TOI Mobile](#) [ePaper](#) [Archives](#)

Other Times Group news sites

The Economic Times | इकनॉमिक टाइम्स
 छत्रपति संदेश | Mumbai Mirror
 Times Now | Indiatimes
 नवभारत टाइम्स | महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स

Living and entertainment

Timescity | iDivya | Bollywood | Zoom

Network

ilimes | Dating & Chat | Email

Hot on the Web

Hotklix

Services

Book print ads | Online shopping | Business solutions | Book domains | Web hosting
 Business email | Free SMS | Free email | Website design | CRM | Tenders | Remit
 Cheap air tickets | Matrimonial | Ringtones | Astrology | Jobs | Property | Buy car
 eGreetings

Copyright © 2010 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: Times Syndication Service