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## PRESS NOTE (February 18, 2010)

The National Commission for Women is deeply anguished and concerned about the continuing incidents of atrocities on women especially by the police in Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Commission for Women condemned the latest incident in Sultanpur of police brutality on a dalit woman accused of murdering her husband was beaten up by an inspector. The incident been shown on electronic media prompted the authorities to suspend the concerned police officer.

This act of punishment by way of beating of an accused obviously defeats the very purpose of the universal accepted principle innocence of every accused before being convicted by a court of law. This taking up the role of judiciary in deciding the guilt followed by punishment by way of beating, by the investigating police should have been severely reprimanded by involving the relevant provisions of IPC against the erring police officer. No criminal case seems to have been registered in this regard till now, prompting authorities to suspend him. It is accepted position of law that physical violence of this nature committed by a police is as much (if not more) of a criminal offence as committed by a common person.

The National Commission for Women has called for a report in this matter, along with action taken by the police, so far. The Commission has urged the State Government to take appropriate steps to ensure security and safety of women.

> Kareena B. Thengamam PRO