

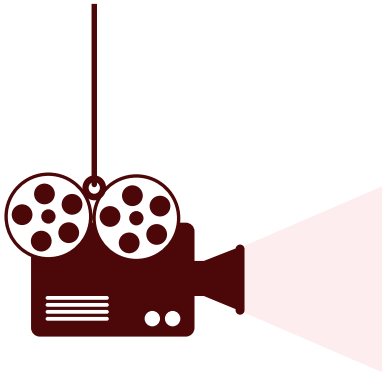
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

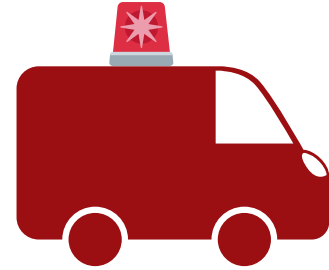
2018 | Day 13



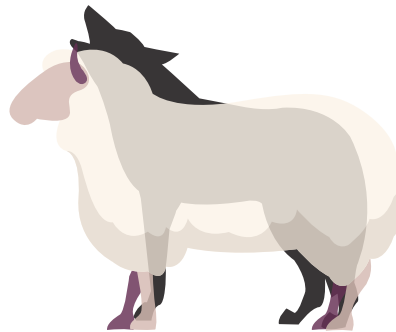
VIOLENCE SEEN IN ABSENCE OF VICTIM WITNESS PROTECTION



THE FILMING



THE TRANSPORTATION



THE MOLE

Read on...



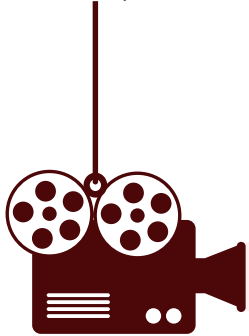
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



2018 | Day 13 | THE FILMING

The 38-year-old Reva* a prostituted woman victim of sex trafficking was furious as well as devastated.



"Kya haq banata hai unko matlab kisiki bhi ki hamako public ke samane nanga kare? Kiti mushakkat se kitne saal hamne kisiko apni photu nekalane nahi di. Dar tha kahi ye tasveer gaav mein hamare rishtodare ke haat padi najar aayi to kya hoga. Sab mehnat pe pani pher diya ye fillumwali ne. Wo bhi apna dhanda chalane ke liye. Bahut bura huwa. Ye ham ko musibat se dhande se chudwane aaye the ki apni picture banane? Bahut bura huwa. Ham jaanate hai. Aaj kal net pe har tarah ki tasveer milatni hai aur dekhate dekhate hajaro meel phail bhi jaati hai. Wo bhi aurat thi. Usne to hamare saath aisa nahi karana chahiye tha."

What right does she have to expose us in public as sluts? With so much of effort, we had managed not to let anyone take our photographs. We were always scared as to what would happen if the photo lands in the hands of any of our relatives or anyone back in the village. This filmmaker ruined everything. That too for running her own shop. Too bad! Was she here to help our liberation or just to make her film? These days you get all sorts of dirty pictures on the net, and they reach millions of people in no time. She too is a woman, at least she shouldn't have done such a thing to us.

Reva was complaining about a woman filmmaker who had shot a police raid on a couple of brothels for her film. It was obvious that the raid was staged for the filmmakers' shoot. After the rescue, all the women and girls were paraded on the road while the cameraman shot them all.

*Name changed to protect identity



For more information to end trafficking visit fighttrafficking.org

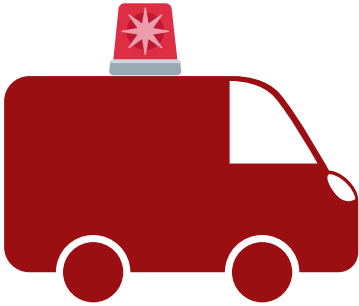


16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



2018 | Day 13 | THE TRANSPORTATION



It was a Monday morning, the six girls rescued on Friday had been kept at a Shelter Home. The police wanted to produce all six of them before the magistrate. The Home authorities were in high spirits as on the previous evening the girls had strongly complained against their pimps and agreed to cooperate with the Home authorities by giving statements before the magistrate. The police were required to also present the accused before the magistrate. The Station House Officer (SHO) said there is just one vehicle and the same should be used for the transportation of both the victims and the accused.

The police van came to the Home at 7am to pick up the girls who left without eating breakfast. The van then proceeded to go to the police station to pick the accused from the lockup. The accused were three pimps. The pimps approached the girls and started talking to them. By the time they reached the court it was 11.30am. No one was granted bail. The police had too many other things to attend to at the court and were busy there. At 5pm, post court hours, the van began its return journey. It first dropped off the accused at the jail and then at 9.30pm the girls were dropped at the Home.

Something had happened in between. The girls looked extremely scared and changed their versions. They refused to identify their pimps or complain against them. Two girls said they did not want to eat as they had eaten outside. One girl was flaunting a fancy mobile phone in her hand while the other two had cigarette packets in their purses. All of them appeared extremely frightened.

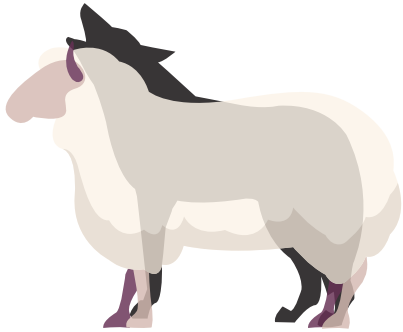
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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



2018 | Day 13 | THE MOLE



The rescued girls reached the court as their case was up for hearing. The accused in their case was already waiting there. Two days ago, when they were rescued and placed in a Shelter Home the Superintendent had met them individually, at the time every girl had stated that they wanted their offenders to be punished. **They had asked for freedom and justice!**

On the previous two days, the Superintendent of the Home had made sensible appeals for them to cooperate with the police and the court by giving proper evidence and facing the cross-examination bravely.

The girls too wanted that, but they were scared. One of them was not a real victim. She was the young sidekick of the brothel keeper. The brothel keeper had ensured that as the police rescued the victim girls her sidekick would also get picked up and go along with the lot. That was the best way to keep an eye on the victims and silence them while at the police station and at the Home. This was done to ensure that the girls do not give any statements against the brothel keeper or their pimps. The sidekick alternatively lured them with promises if they don't cooperate with the authorities. She terrorized them with dire consequences if they gave any statements against any of the sex traders.

In the court, all the girls refused to blame the accused, they stated that the police were at fault and not the accused. They requested to immediately be released or granted bail.