

Scribe shot at in lower Assam: Media bodies demand actions



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Azlina Khanam 19 June 2015 Updated 19 Jun 6516 views

[Journalist](#) Action Committee (Assam) and Journalists' Forum Assam have expressed shock at the incident of shooting at a local scribe in western Assam last night by the miscreants and demanded stringent actions [against](#) the perpetrators.

Prashanta Kumar (35), who is associated with Asomiya Pratidin, a highly circulated [Assamese](#) daily, was picked up by a group of unknown [gunmen](#) from Khairabari locality of [Udalguri](#) district last evening. The armed youths introduced themselves as members belonged to [National Democratic Front of Bodoland](#) (IK Songbijit faction) and physically assaulted Kumar for his series of anti-militant reporting.

For few hours, the culprits tortured Kumar inside a four-wheeler and then shot at him. Kumar, who got bullet injuries at his left shoulder, was [soon](#) abandoned by the youths for dying. However, some villagers took Kumar to a local hospital and later he was shifted to Gauhati Medical College hospital in the midnight of June 18, where he is still undergoing treatment. According to the attending doctors, Kumar is out of [danger](#) and recovering fast.

“[Attacks](#) on media persons have been increasing across the country for their journalistic activities. The tendency has recently grown in lower and central Assam following the massive security operations [against](#) the tribal militants, where the armed outfits [start](#) targeting the reporters for covering the anti-militant activities,” said a joint statement issued by JAC and JFA.

It also urged the State [chief](#) minister [Tarun Gogoi](#), also in charge of State home portfolio, to take appropriate actions [against](#) the culprits such that the scribes of rural Assam can report on sensitive issues without [fear](#) and in confidence of justice for any unwanted incidents relating to them.

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BY AZLINA KHANAM

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