

ACHR pulls up Meghalaya Govt Custody death

From CK Nayak

NEW DELHI: Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) on Thursday came down heavily on the Meghalaya Government for trying to "pre-empt, prejudice and pre-judge" the impending order of NHRC on the custodial death of 17-year-old Sngewlem Kharsati from Puriang village in the State and demanded that at least a Rs 10 lakh interim compensation be paid to the next of kin of the deceased.

ACHR asked NHRC to direct the State Government to start necessary criminal proceedings against the police personnel, including their immediate arrest, who were responsible for the death of the minor.

The State Government has found a number of police personnel guilty for the death of Sngewlem, recently.

The inquiry commission report was submitted to the government and NHRC earlier this month. But, before NHRC could take any decision, the State Government announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of Sngewlem and departmental action against the guilty police personnel, ACHR Director Suhas Chakma said in a statement.

"This is nothing but a desperate attempt of the Meghalaya Government to pre-empt, prejudice and pre-judge the impending order of NHRC," Mr Chakma said.

In May this year, Sngewlem, son of Bliss Kharsati of Puriang village, was picked up by police for alleged extortion and was beaten to death inside the lock-up of Mawryngkneng Police Outpost in East Khasi Hills district.