

ಬೀದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳ ಹಕ್ಕೊತ್ತಾಯ ಆಂದೋಲನ

ಬೀದಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರಿಗಳು, ದಲಿತ, ಮಾನವ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ

To,

14 January, 2011
Bangalore

Dear Sir,

Sub: Evictions of street vendors and violation of their fundamental rights and the need for immediate implementation of National Urban Street Vendor's policy, 2009 by BBMP

The past several months have seen the BBMP, the police and Muzrai departments continuously abuse us street vendors of the city. In July 2010, more than 600 of us from Shivajinagar and Ulsoor were violently evicted from our place of work without any prior notice and our belongings were thrown away. Since then we and our families have been struggling to survive as we have been left with absolutely no source of income. We have also been struggling to pay our children's school fees and the rent for our homes.

Even after repeated requests and petitions to concerned officers in the BBMP and the police, we were not allowed to resume our livelihoods. Exercising our democratic right to demand a response, we formed the Beedhi Vyaaparigala Hakkotaya Andolana and protested at the BBMP office on Oct 21, 2010. The Mayor promised to speak to the commissioner and fix a date for a meeting with the *andolana* to discuss how street vendors could be accommodated on the pavements. These were the demands we had placed –

1. The evicted vendors should be restored back to the place they were evicted from and a space of 1mtr X 1 mtr must be allotted to each vendor on the extreme side of the pavement to carry out their hawking.
2. The BBMP must reframe its Street Hawking scheme in accordance with the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court judgments and the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009.
3. The BBMP must undertake to not carry out any evictions without following the due process of law. Atrocities against vendors should be stopped immediately. In the name of beautification, BBMP must not evict any vendors anywhere in Bangalore.

The Mayor had promised to fix a date before the 28th of October. We met the Mayor and Commissioner several times after the protest, but each time they never fixed a date for the meeting. Even after a month of follow-ups with the Mayor's and Commissioner's office, the meeting did not get fixed. Hence we had no option but to sit in the BBMP office again on November 21, 2010. The Mayor's office then assured us that the Mayor would meet us on December 15th at 5pm. Citing the Mayor's ill-health, his office cancelled the meeting. The Mayor's office has now scheduled a meeting with us for the 20th of January, 2011. However, the Mayor refused to give the date in writing and we do not know if the meeting, which has been thrice postponed already, will happen.

We have been struggling hard to make ends meet since July 2010 . If we do not get back our right to livelihood soon, we will be in a very precarious and desperate situation. It is our prayer to you to direct the BBMP to immediately implement the National Urban Street Vendors Policy, 2009 and take necessary action so that the we can resume our business from our original places immediately. We request you to please act on our plea so that the street vendors' rights are fulfilled and to ensure that the people of the city are not deprived of access to goods at affordable rates .

On Behalf of the Beedhi Vyaaparigala Hakkotaya Andolana

Annexure : 1) Details of Pertinent Judgements and events

2) Details regarding non-implementation of National Urban Street Vendors Policy, 2009 by the BBMP