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Activists hail SHRC's 'landmark decision'

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The police had, instead, lodged a "false" case against the activist based on a statement of the vehicle owner who was not at the spot. The owner alleged that the activist threatened him.

People dealing with rights of humans and animals have welcomed both directives, expressing belief that these would prove a deterrent to the police from assaulting people without reason.

"We are pleased by the orders of the human rights commission," said Ashok Jain, chairman of a high court-appointed sub-committee meant to monitor animal welfare laws in the state. "The activists were only trying to stop illegal transportation of cattle, but the police, instead, thrashed them while sparing the real offenders," said Jain.

Dr Nandini Kulkarni, an animal activist from Mumbai, called it a "landmark de-

cision" that renders justice not only to voiceless animals, but also to their caretakers.

Siddh Vidya, a high court advocate who deals in human rights cases, told TOI "The video of the police brutality in Nanded had shown the cops hitting the five activists with lathis without any heed to prevailing laws. Such a bad attitude of the police only encourages butchers to indulge in illegal cattle-smuggling. The commission's orders in the Nanded and Nandurbar cases is significant."

The advocate added that the rights body had taken up the Nanded case suo motu as the video clearly showed the incident. Advocate Vidya pointed out that a standard operating procedure in cases of animal offences needs to be initiated without losing time so that the police are clear about how to act when activists approach them with complaints of illegal cattle transport and slaughter.

Cops must pay ₹2L each to 5 animal activists for brutality: Rights body

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Mumbai: Five animal rights activists from Nanded who were assaulted by the police earlier this year have to be paid Rs 2 lakh each by the district police, the state human rights body has ordered. The activists were subjected to the police brutality when they tried to stop illegal cattle slaughter in February. A video of the activists being thrashed by police personnel had gone viral at the time.

The order was passed by chairperson of Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission Justice K K Tated and its member M A Sayeed.

In a separate case of 2023, the human rights watchdog has directed the police chief

Human and animal rights activists have welcomed the state human rights commission's decision, saying it could act as a deterrent to police assaulting people without due reason

of Nandurbar district to pay Rs 21,000 to an animal rights activist. The activist from Nandurbar had flagged down a vehicle in which raw leather was being transported. The driver had no documents for what he was carrying in the vehicle and the activist had shot a video of the content and got the driver to head to the local police station. However, the police let the driver leave with the vehicle.

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