

### **Police attempt to intimidate, discredit senior advocate P Trinadha Rao**

We, functionaries of several women's and human rights organisations, strongly protest the action of the Visakhapatnam rural police in filing a case under section 108 CrPC on senior advocate of Rajahmundry Palla Trinadha Rao. This is a concocted, false case and is clearly a malicious attempt to intimidate and discredit Sri Trinadha Rao.

As is known, Trinadha Rao has been sought by the women of Vakapalli to be appointed as Special Public Prosecutor in the case relating to the rape of 11 women of Vakapalli by Greyhounds police personnel on August 20, 2007. The case is presently ongoing in the SC, ST (POA) Special Court in Visakhapatnam and the trial schedule has been fixed for January 4.

The women of Vakapalli had approached the High Court seeking appointment of P Trinadha Rao as Special PP. The matter was posted to January 2 by the High Court. This morning, Trinadha Rao, accompanied by a reporter was proceeding to Vakapalli village when the police stopped his car, seized all his papers and his mobile phone, took him into custody after planting a cover containing photographs of the Vakapalli case accused in the car. He was taken to the G Madugula police station and a case under section 108 CrPC was booked against him and he was also made to sign peace bond.

This is appalling behaviour by the police. This is nothing but a brazen and unlawful attempt to undermine efforts by the women survivors of Vakapalli to have him appointed as the Special PP to prosecute their case.

We urge senior officials in the police establishment and the government to rein in the police from such dirty tricks.

HRF, Mahila Chetna, POW, CLC, AIDWA, CMS, Mahila Samakhya