

World Refugee Day: How a Pakistani risked everything to reach Europe

Imam Ahmed Khan, smiling, from Pakistan-administered Kashmir, decided to leave the region in December 2012 after realizing that his life was under threat due to his political activities.

Khan had started the life of Pakistani security agencies for denouncing independence for the part of Kashmir that's under the control of Islamabad. He had also spoken out openly against jihadi and extremist outfits, which in his view, were instrumental in hurting down the social fabric of society in the region.

Khan contacted a few human-trafficking agents who promised him a big money. He had to leave his family and said them that he was going to Kandahar city, which is close to the capital Islamabad.

But the following day, Khan, along with a friend, ended up in the southern port city of Karachi. From there, he had to make an arrangement to go to Pakistan's western Baluchistan province, which borders Iran.

"In Karachi, policemen somewhere learnt that I was going abroad," Khan told DW.

"A police vehicle stopped me and my friend and they asked for money. I had no option but to give them, 200 rupees (US\$1.10). Then, they let me go to Karachi. We went to a bus station and I took a bus to Baluchistan."

"I had a lot of fear after the cops let me go," Khan said, adding that he felt he knew that it was just the beginning of a long list of paying bribes to a number of officials on his way to Europe.

"I got into an overcrowded bus that took us to Baluchistan's Quetta city. From there, we reached border area and entered Iran. But after traveling in Iran for some days, we were caught by Iranian authorities."

Khan said he and his friends were arrested near the port area in Bandar Abbas city. Dozens of people were crowded into a small, little prison, he said, asking that the food they were given was not as good as the very sight of it would make one vomit. "The Iranian brig about Muslim brotherhood but the way they treated us cannot be explained in words. They treated us as few were animals."

After spending 20 days in jail, they were deported from Iran to Pakistan. Even though they were released after entering to Pakistan, their troubles didn't end there.

"I was arrested when Pakistani officials started collecting statistics from the refugees in Quetta, who had already been exiled because of the religious journey," Khan recounted.

"A Pakistani preliminary official asked me to hand over my gold ring, I asked who, and he replied that it was a gift from me to my wife."

After Khan's friend managed to set his connection with the Pakistani government, they were returned to Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

The bad experience, however, didn't deter Khan and his friend in undertaking another journey to Europe despite the risk and hardship.

"This time we took the same route, passing the palm of officials on our way to Iran, meeting agents there who took us to the Iran-Turkey border area."

When they approached the border, he said, they were first spent by border guards but luckily remained unhurt.

"Iranian border security guards helped to enter Turkey. I was stopped while waiting the flight up on borders. Some of my fellow migrants were arrested. And immediately after meeting the U.S., we were escorted by military. This time we took a bus to Iran from where we were deported to



Pakistan from Islamabad borders, who put him in touch with an agent who promised to help him get to Greece.

"I finally made it to Greece in April 2013. I worked there for 18 months in an agricultural farm in north conditions, and later joined municipal bodies where I served for over two years before moving to Germany a few years ago. During all that time, I also visited different countries attending conferences on human rights."

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

Attack on Muslim man: India police charge journalists for tweets

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

Diarrhoea kills at least 4 Rohingya on remote Bangladesh island

Bangladesh officials say they have confirmed a diarrhoea outbreak that has killed four Rohingya refugees and infected 1,500 others, alerting rights groups and the United Nations about conditions on the island camp.

Bangladesh has sheltered 18,000 refugees to the low-lying Bhushan Char island from cramped settlements in the mainland.

But many of those relocated by the new coastal health and other facilities on the island, he is a regular sufferer by deadly diseases, are poor and said diarrhoea broke out early this month after the first heavy monsoon rain.

All four people have died over the last two weeks, two officials on the island said. APT news agency, including a 20-year woman and three children.

Rafat Tasvir Akter, a doctor at the island's 20-bed clinic at the island, said at least 1,500 people — nearly 10 percent of those on the island — had been infected and some 60 needed hospital treatment.

"The situation has improved. We have added 10 more beds in the hospital to treat patients. On Thursday, there were only 14 diarrhoea patients in the hospital," he told AFP.

A regional health chief said the outbreak was contained after authorities quickly distributed 15,000 water purification tablets and 15,000 doses of oral rehydration solution.

"We have also imparted quick health education to them so that they don't drink any water other than the one extracted from deep tube wells," said Masum Bhattacharjee, the local district health chief.

One Rohingya man on the island, who declined to be named, said doctors only gave him three cups of oral saline solution, and said him to take the bus home.

But the doctor told me to buy the medicine from a pharmacy. But it takes money to buy medicine. Where can I get money? Land is scarce and expensive. But there are projects' director official Baburam Khan said Reuters.

The three military said late on Thursday that 25 people were missing in floods in Siddhipur, a mountainous district bordering the Tibet region of China, and other parts of the country.

The monsoon rains, which usually begin in June and last until September, kill hundreds of people in mostly mountainous Nepal every year.

Heavy rain since Thursday have damaged roads, destroyed bridges, washed away fish farms and livestock, and wrecked homes.

Hundreds of people have been forced to move to community shelters, including schools, sports grounds, and other sites, said officials and the army.

According to the Johns Hopkins University's Center for Disease Control, Sri Lanka's nation has been reporting some of the highest coronavirus test positivity rates in the world. Reuters.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri Ram, then Lord Ram and Vande Mataram (I praise thee, Mother, which are rallying calls for Hindu fanatical groups, who were protesting from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and frequently target India's Muslim minority.

In a two-minute video clip that did the men can also be seen carrying the elderly man's head with scissors. But the Uttar Pradesh police denied the attack was motivated by religious hatred and said Saifi was beaten because he had sold the men an amulet that did not work.

Police said the journalists gave the video a comment saying "and" intended to incite communal hatred between the religious communities and wanted to disturb the public order."

In response, Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair, in separate tweets, said their statements on the incident were based on the video and were reported by several journalists.

Nagendra Chaudhary, police officer, said he had forwarded a different version of the incident to the Uttar Pradesh police and was disappointed before further comment.

In a similar vein, Ayoub said the police claim and says it was a hate attack.

A police officer in Ghazipur, said on condition of anonymity, told Al Jazeera on Friday that nine people, including some Muslims, were beaten around as he while police were looking for two more suspects.

In its report, the police also said Saifi, Ayoub and Zubair circulated the video of the incident against The Wire and several journalists for their tweets against them.

The FIR by the Uttar Pradesh police said it "condemns the filing of the FIR by the Uttar Pradesh government against The Wire and several journalists" for their tweets on the June 5 assault.

The FIR said the police case against journalists was a "vicious use of law to intimidate reporting and dissent to harass independent media."

"The Guild is deeply concerned by the UP (Uttar Pradesh) police's track record of filing FIRs against journalists to deter them from reporting serious incidents involving lives of citizens," it said.

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes press freedom worldwide, in a statement on Thursday said the Uttar Pradesh police must "with-draw their completely unreasonable" and stop "harassing" journalists and news outlets.

Several press bodies have condemned police in the northern Uttar Pradesh state for filing cases against journalists and a news portal for their tweets and reports on the attack of an elderly Muslim man earlier this month.

In separate statements, the press bodies demanded an immediate withdrawal of the FIRs and reports (IFRs) against three journalists (Ayoub, Saifi and Zubair Ahmed) — and The Wire news website.

Police on Thursday also accused better Uttar Pradesh officials to smear allegations that it did not stop a video of the attack from going viral, changing the social media conspiracy with spreading "hate and enmity". Three members of the opposition Congress party — all Muslims — have also been booked for their tweets on the incident.

On June 5, Abdul Samad Saifi, a 72-year-old resident of Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, an industrial New Delhi, was reportedly of death while in an ambulance for some time, taken to an isolated spot and allegedly beaten for hours as he convalesced on a cot, spanning 10 days.

The men also allegedly forced him to chant for Sri