



Note for use: This form can be used to file a complaint to the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) regarding the existence of bonded labour. It is the responsibility of the District Administration, through the RDO or Sub-Divisional Magistrate, to inquire into the existence of bonded labour.

SAMPLE FORCED LABOUR COMPLAINT TO THE RDO

[Insert address of Complainant]

[Date]

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND REGISTERED POST WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DUE

[insert name of official]

Revenue Divisional Officer

X Revenue Division _____

District [STATE] [insert PIN]

Re: [Insert Facility Name] – Forced Labour Violations

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have identified an illegal forced labour system within your jurisdiction, at [facility name], located in the _____ Village, _____ Taluk, _____ Revenue Division, _____ District, [STATE]. The [facility name] are owned and operated by A and his son, B. We believe these men have perpetrated criminal offences against approximately [estimate number] victims at the [facility name]. While there may certainly be more forced labour victims inside the [facility name], the names of the victims that we have identified thus far are:

[Insert victims' names]

Details of Forced Labour Offences

The victims have all been forced to work in consideration of illegal cash advances given by the Accused to entice the victims to submit themselves to the accused's unlawful system of forced labour. Until the illegal advances are declared by the Accused to be repaid, the victims are forced to live with their families at the [facility name], and they are not free to work elsewhere or travel freely throughout India. When the victims have attempted to escape, they have been hunted down by the accused and forced to return to the [facility name]. They are paid far below the minimum wage and much of this meagre amount is deducted purportedly towards repayment of the illegal advances.

Not only have the Accused trapped these victims into a forced labour system from which it is virtually impossible to escape, they ensure domination over their labourers through physical and verbal abuse. They beat the victims into subjugation on numerous occasions, striking them on the face, neck and back. On one occasion, an escaped victim [insert name of Victim] was hunted down, brought back to the [facility name] and beaten by the Accused, C, with a plastic pipe.

Law

These vulnerable victims have no realistic hope of escaping this oppressive forced labour system on their own. Fortunately, Indian law protects them.

The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1976 empowers and requires the District Administration to intervene immediately on behalf of these Victims.

The District Administration has a duty to (1) release the victims immediately, (2) provide meaningful rehabilitation for the victims, and (3) proceed with prosecution of the Accused.

Intervention Required

As [facility name] is located within your Revenue Division, _____ District, we request this Administration to do the following:

1. Conduct a raid of the [facility name] to extract all victims;
2. Immediately conduct an off-site enquiry of the labourers found inside and any who have rU
3. Upon the presentation of a prima facie case of forced labour by the victims, find them to be bonded labourers as required by law; and
4. Immediately issue Release Certificates to and rehabilitate those found to be bonded labourers.

In accordance with the directive of the Supreme Court of India, staff members of [insert NGO name] will be present to assist the Administration during each phase of the enquiry, release, prosecution and rehabilitation proceedings under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 (Neeraja Chaudhary v. State of M.P., 3 SCC 252 (1984)).

Respectfully submitted, [SIGN COMPLAINT]
[TYPE DESIGNATION OF COMPLAINANT]

cc: District Collector, _____ District