



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA



Human Rights at Sea Abandonment Case Study

Indian Family Stories of the
Consequences of Seafarer
Abandonment: AB Mayur
Gawade Family, Pune, India

**Abandonment.
A Pattern of Human Rights
Abuse.**



“We are very proud of him, but we want him back. We want him to visit his Grandmother’s grave.”

The Uncle of AB Gawade

Introduction

On the 5th March 2019, in a small village outside of Pune, India, the Human Rights at Sea team met with the family of AB Mayur Gawade of the MV AL NADER, (Offshore supply ship) IMO 7027502 UAE Flag.

At the time of writing, AB Gawade remains abandoned onboard his vessel off the Sharjah OPL anchorage, UAE, after 18 months without pay amounting to USD \$6000, and no ability to see his family. During the period of his absence, he was unable to attend the funeral of his Grandmother eight months ago, whilst he remains the main earner for the immediate and extended family.

The following is a testimony and insight on behalf of the family in India, as to the issues faced, and consequences of the abandonment of Mayur.



Abandoned Vessel MV AL NADER IMO 7027502 UAE Flag

Family Support

The Human Rights at Sea team met with four members of Mayur’s immediate and extended family in their home, next to two small fields of crops that they tend, and with two cows to support the family’s needs. His mother and father live elsewhere in India, but he additionally supports them through his work at sea.

His Uncle, Mr. Prakash Gawade, is a hard-working marginal farmer and labours daily on the plot of land immediately adjacent to their home. During Mayur’s studies in preparation for going to sea, he lived with his Aunt and Uncle, along with his sister, Vrushali, who he also financially supports.

Mayur has not been seen by his family since August 2017 (19 months), although he has been able to periodically communicate with them through his personal mobile.

Reportedly, in order to re-charge his mobile, Mayur has previously been forced to call passing vessels to request help to get credit. Currently, WiFi is intermittently provided by a Tanzanian flagged supply vessel which moors alongside between its work roles, and also provides them with electricity when it is able to, as a matter of voluntary support to the crew. Otherwise, the MV AL NADER crew cook with wood on an open stove made out of a barrel.

At the time of the death of his Grandmother, Mayur was unable to help the family. He missed her burial in the village, and commented in an interview via What’s App that: **“I felt very sad, even the company didn’t support me in the hard times, or give me sign off to go home.”**

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Abandonment. A Pattern of Human Rights Abuse.



AB Mayur Gawade - 2017



AB Mayur Gawade - now



Family Home

His lack of pay for the last 18 months has had a profound effect on the family we visited, as they have no other source of money, other than the selling of their small crop of onions, which are now dying due to a lack of rain and a lack of a constant water supply to nourish them. The family has no immediate access to a well, and therefore relies on portable water and the natural elements.

The Human Rights at Sea team was also shown the family's savings account which had a zero balance. It is understood that Mayur is expected to receive a small charitable lump sum from the United Kingdom NGO ISWAN, but at the time of writing, has not yet been received.

Despite the hardships, Mayur's family remain very proud of him, of his achievements, and of him being a seafarer.

"He left us to work to make life better for his family" said his Uncle. "We are very proud of him, but we want him back. We want him to visit his Grandmother's grave."

In addition, Mayur's sister, Vrushali, is due to be married in May, but the lack of money and absence of Mayur means that this may not happen on the intended date. Nonetheless, Vrushali is confident that Mayur will be home in time, and she is still planning her event despite the uncertainty. **"Can you bring him home?"** the team were asked.

The cost of the marriage ceremony and associated costs is understood to be around 1 Lakh (circa USD\$1450).

Comment

Human Rights at Sea continues to publicly advocate for abandoned seafarers alongside other maritime welfare organisations, and continues to maintain that such conditions being suffered, in this case by Indian seafarers and their families, constitutes a continuing **'Pattern of human rights abuse'** which must be urgently addressed throughout the maritime supply chain, at State, port, coastal, flag State and UN level.



Supply ship



Uncle Prakash Gawade



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Human Rights at Sea is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1161673. The organisation has been independently developed for the benefit of the international community for matters and issues concerning human rights in the maritime environment. Its aim is to explicitly raise awareness, implementation and accountability of human rights provisions throughout the maritime environment, especially where they are currently absent, ignored or being abused.

Disclaimer

The content and detail within this Case Study has been provided to Human Rights at Sea by the family of the seafarer named. The contents of the submitted text have been checked, as best as is possible, for accuracy by the authors at the time of writing. Human Rights at Sea is not liable in anyway, whatsoever, in any jurisdiction, for the contents of this case study which has been translated and published in good faith following investigation by the Charity. All text and pictures have been acknowledged where able. Any omissions or factual inaccuracies may be alerted by writing to: enquiries@humanrightsea.org. The opinions, perspectives and comments are solely those of the author supported by the evidence disclosed.



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