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You are here: [Home](#) > [Collections](#) > **Land Dispute**

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Fishermen's leader attacked by mob, in hospital

Bella Jaisinghani & Sumitra Deb Roy, TNN Dec 13, 2012, 02.10AM IST

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MUMBAI: Fishermen's union leader Damodar Tandel was grievously assaulted by a mob in Palghar over a land dispute on Sunday. Tandel is admitted to Bombay Hospital with a fractured nose and limbs and 23 stitches to his head. Eleven people have been arrested and charged with attempt to murder.

Tandel is the president of the Akhil Maharashtra Machhimar Kruti Samiti and a politician. He had previously filed 12 police complaints of trespass against the main accused, Vishnu Nana Gharat, and his sons, , Nayan and Rajesh, who have been booked in this case.

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Tandel's son Devendra said, "My father had purchased a plot of land near Satpatti village in Palghar around 10 years ago. before.

Our neighbours, the Gharats, laid claim on the adjoining parcel of 7 gunthas that was , in fact, also ours. Earlier this year, the court settled matters in our favour, but they feel as if their pride has been dented." by the decision."

Officials in Palghar denied the matter was unequivocally settled in court.

The fishermen's leader, who who lives in Machhimar Colony in Cuffe Parade, went to Palghar on Sunday to oversee the property, he was allegedly. The family alleges that the accused anticipated his visit last Sunday and waylaid him when he arrived with his sons. "That evening attacked by around 40 people armed with iron rods and bamboo sticks. accosted him and rained blows on his head. They tried to kill him by hurling a huge boulder at his head. He raised his arm to fend them off and fractured it in the process. As my brother Puneet intervened, the goons beat him up as well. He is admitted to hospital with a dislocated arm," Devendra said.

Deputy superintendent R D Shinde told TOI, "We have registered a case under Sec. 307 of attempt to murder as well as rioting, and arrested 11-12 people. We have secured their custody for a further two days and investigation is under way."

A doctor in Bombay Hospital said Tandel was recovering well and was stable. "He was admitted with injuries to the head and required multiple sutures. He also has an injury to the right thumb," he said, adding that he would be discharged in the next few days.

Meanwhile the Tandel family accuses the local police of shielding the culprits for they are

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wealthy landowners and builders. However, the deputy superintendent denied this was so. "The police have been taking down each one of their complaints. We have applied the most stringent sections of attempt to murder in Sunday's matter too and can hardly be accused of partisan behaviour," Shinde said.

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