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# IT union mourns Pratibha's death

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**Bangalore, Dec 18:** The Union for Information Technology Enabled Services (UNITES) Professionals on Sunday mourned the brutal rape and murder of HP employee Pratibha.

UNITES Secretary General R Karthik Shekhar said the death of Pratibha was unfortunate. "The neglect of call centre employees is one among many reasons for her murder. Also, suspicious HP employees could have sent her a SMS and saved her," he said.

He added that there was need to counsel city-based call centre employees and big companies should take the first step. Instead, they are stopping their employees from talking to the media. "This could be one incident. But its effect will be deep," he said.

Suggesting some safety measures, Karthik said, "Vehicles that pick up employees should be company owned. It would be better if identification cards are provided to drivers." UNITES has joined hands with some top universities. They will be conducting research on loopholes in the BPO and call centre industry and problems faced by employees.

Currently, UNITES is on a signature campaign where an individual can sign or write e-mail which will be forwarded to Pratibha's family. Individuals who want to express their condolences can log on to [www.unitespro.org](http://www.unitespro.org).