

Flashing - a form of sexual assault

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for HQ

Delay in travel reimbursement holds up probe in flashing case

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Mumbai: A 31-year-old actor-social activist who had filed a police complaint against an unidentified person for placing video calls and flashing her, has reportedly been told by the police the probe is being delayed because it takes two years for the money spent by officers on travel to be reimbursed.

The actress approached the Versova police and lodged a complaint on August 4. She said the accused continued to harass her despite the FIR. Senior inspector Raghvendra Thakur said a team had been formed and the case will be solved soon.

The actress posted about her ordeal on social media on September 3. Talking to **TOL**, she said, "It's been more than a month and the police are just sitting on it. He just video called me again! And couple of my friends too. I went to the police station on August 4 at 2am, spent 2 hours trying to file a complaint, and to what end? I'm on it, not just for my own safety, but also of others who he may be harassing." She added that she felt bad when the police officer told her that he has to pay for his travel to Agra to trace accused from his own pocket.

She said that before, she had tried to file an e-complaint on the city police's online portal. "After trying for four hours, the website failed to send me an identity confirmation email. I called 100, and was told that officials would come home to take my complaint," she said, adding that she had to eventually go to the police station.

Psychologist Nirali Bhatia said flashing is an act of exhibitionism — a non-violent form of sexual assault. She added, "These men could be carrying hurt and anger towards women, so they find power in humiliating them, or, they could even be sadists who find terrorising arousing. Behind the screen, anonymity makes them more experimental, and allows them to feel powerful as they believe they can get away with it."

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