



Indian Workers' Association (GB) Established in 1938

National President: Dyal Bagri

General Secretary: Mrs Joginder Bains

05/09/2018

Memorandum

Her Excellency

Ms. Happy Guptan

Consul of Community Affairs

Indian High Commission

Birmingham, UK

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Her excellency Ms Guptan

People of Indian Origin cannot remain untouched by the happenings in India because their heart is in India. They become jubilant when India is Triumphant. They suffer sorrow if India experiences unrest.

we are extremely concerned for the current developments in India where violation of human rights and attack on freedom of speech, a fundamental principle of democracy. people in India are living in fear of violence and atrocity committed by the vigilante groups such as Cow Rashak, Bajrang Dal, Romeo Squad and so on. People's choice to what they eat, wear, associate with and who should be their life partner in under attack. These vigilantes have blessings of the BJP Government and feel they are above the Law. They commit crime, brutally beat and even murder anyone who they suspect possess beef, cow killer, have personal relationship with a Muslim. The minority religious communities, Dalits and Tribal communities do not feel safe. Process of attacking minorities and turn India into Hindu Rashtra began as soon as Mr Narinder Modi lead BJP Government took office.

Anyone dare to criticise the Government policies is quickly labelled as ani- national, not patriotic, their voice in silenced either by murder or put them in jail. Many progressive writers, intellectuals and activists such as, Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, M. M. Kalburgi, Gauri Lankesh. Those responsible for the murder of these writers and activists are still at large. Clearly these acts of atrocity and death threats, physical attacks are to silent ne who challenges the BJP Government policies. A statement by a BJP member of the

Karnataka State Legislature, at death of Guarri Lankesh left no doubt that this is the case, said that if Gauri had not criticized Sangh Privar she would still be alive. Constitution right to Freedom of consciousness, Indian people enjoyed in independent India, is seriously under attack.

Indian Workers' Association strongly believe that the arrests of ten activists and serial raids across the country on the homes of activists and public intellectuals who are critical of the Government and the ruling Party at Centre, this linked to silencing any opposition to the Modi lead BJP Government. The arrests of prominent activists and intellectuals Sudha Bharadwaj, Vernon Gonsalves, Gautam Navlakha, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira and others, are nothing but an attempt by the government to strike terror among those who are fighting for justice for the marginalised. This is also an attempt by the BJP to invent a false enemy and engage in scaremongering in order to polarise the 2019 elections in its favour. Already, the government and the media houses close to the BJP have been trying to spin a false narrative of a Maoist conspiracy since June 2018. Terms like "urban naxals" are invented in order to stifle any criticism of the government. The so-called raids carried out on the houses of these activists are aimed at creating a spectacle, as the writings and views of these intellectuals are already publicly known and are well documented. People like Sudha Bharadwaj, Gautam Navlakha and others who have been arrested are friends of the people who have dedicated their entire lives to the betterment of the Indian public. By arresting them, the BJP is only exposing its insecurities and its intolerance to any dissent or criticism of its policies. Police have produced no evidence against any person arrested (in Jail) or under house arrest.

Indian Workers Association strongly condemn the police wavering untested and unvalidated copies of the evidence still at the forensic laboratory in a press conference violating the Penal Code of justice. This clearly will prejudice public opinion. We demand that these police officers should be immediately suspended.

We see the arrests continuation with the recent attacks on pro-justice voices such as Swami Agnivesh, Umar Khalid, and many other student activists from Delhi to Lucknow. Both the arrests and the physical attacks on justice loving people are nothing but a series of attempts to stifle dissent and deny social justice. Moreover, we believe that it is an attack on India's constitution and on Civil Liberty. We, therefore, demand immediate release of the arrested individuals, dropping of all false and malicious charges, as these arrests are politically motivated and unjustified.