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## **Press Statement**

### **In Support of Teesta Setalvad and others**

#### **Revenge is the only motive of the vindictive Modi government**

We are shocked and outraged by the continuing attempt of the highly vindictive Modi government and the Gujarat police to somehow implicate activists Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand, along with three victim-survivors of the state-sponsored Gujarat carnage in 2002 on patently trumped-up charges.

This is nothing but a desperate bid to delay or derail the justice process, in particular Zakia Jafri's appeal which is now before the Gujarat High Court. Mrs. Jafri has accused Gujarat chief minister and home minister, Narendra Modi along with 59 other top politicians, police officers and civil servants of conspiracy for mass murder and other serious criminal offences. It is significant that the Supreme Court appointed amicus curiae in the case, Mr. Raju Ramachandran, has told the apex court there was enough prima facie evidence to prosecute Modi.

Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand are being especially targeted as they are among the founder members of Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and have been at the forefront of the struggle for justice for the victims-survivors of the Gujarat pogrom.

Equally condemnable is the hounding in the same alleged "cheating" case, of three office bearers of Gulberg Housing Society, Ahmedabad, each of whom lost several family members when police watched as frenzied mobs attacked their colony on February 27, 2002. Among them is Tanvir Jafri whose father and former Congress MP, Ehsan Jafri was mercilessly butchered along with 68 others.

CJP is today nationally and internationally recognised and respected for the sustained efforts of its team of lawyers resulting in 117 of the perpetrators being given life sentences by the trial courts. Among them is former BJP MLA and minister in Modi cabinet Maya Kodnani and Gujarat's Bajrang Dal leader, Babu Bajrangi for their role in the Naroda Patiya massacre. Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand have already filed affidavits in the courts, rebutting each and every charge in detail. What's more, they have accused the Gujarat police of spreading falsehood through affidavits filed in court.

The latest malicious move of the Modi government and the Gujarat police is a clear indicator that revenge is the shape of things to come.

As citizens committed to the Rule of Law, we denounce the vengeful action of the Modi government and the Gujarat police, and demand immediate withdrawal of the motivated and baseless FIR against Teesta Setalvad, Javed Anand, Tanvir Jafri and the office-bearers of the Gulberg Society.

Romila Thapar	Rooprekha Verma	Sashi Kumar
C.P. Chandrasekhar	Prabhat Patnaik	Anil Bhatti
Archana Prasad	Vivan Sundaram	Ram Rahman
Madangopal Singh	M.K. Raina	Ajeet Caur
Irfan Habib	Githa Hariharan	Gitanjali Shree
Indira Chandrasekhar	Jasodhra Bagchi	Jagmati Sangwan
K.M. Shrimali	Sudhir Chandra	Shireen Moosvi
Sohail Hashmi	Amiya Kumar Bagchi	Aditya Nigam
Ajith Pillai	Ali N. Rizavi	Amar Farooqui
Amit Sen Gupta	Anil Chandra	Anuradha Chenoy
Arjun Dev	Arpana Caur	Asad Zaidi
B.P. Sahu	Badri Raina	Biswamoy Pati
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Geeta Kapur	Ghayur Alam	Indira Arjun Dev
Iqtidar Alam Khan	Ishrat Alam	Jauhar Kanungo
Jayati Ghosh	Kamal Mitra Chenoy	Kesavan Veluthat
Keval Arora	Kumar Shahani	Lata Singh
Lima kanungo	Madhu Prasad	Zoya Hasan
Madhusree Dutta	Malini Bhattacharya	Mihir Bhattacharya
MMP Singh	Mohan Rao	Moloyashree Hashmi
N.K. Sharma	Najaf Haider	Nalini Taneja
Nandakumar	Navjot Altaf	Nikhil Kumar
Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay	Nilima Sheikh	Mrinalini Mukherjee
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S.Z.H. Jafri	Saba Hasan	Sashi Kumar
Shakti Kak	Shamim Akhtar	Shamshad
Shikha Ghosh	Wasi Haider	Shohini Ghosh
Sukumar Muralidharan	V. Ramakrishna	