

B-23, Maharani Bagh
New Delhi 110065

30 May 2014

Justice K.G.Balkrishnan
Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
New Delhi

Dear Justice Balkrishnan,

I am writing to endorse the letter of 21 May 2014, sent to you from the Trustees of the Citizens for Justice and Peace (copy enclosed). I am joining them in conveying my deep concern for the life and liberty of the two human rights defenders, namely, Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand, referred to in the letter. They have been incorrectly accused of criminal charges and are facing threat of arrest and intimidation.

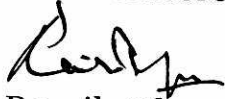
I too would like to urge that full protection be given to the two under the powers of the Protection of Human Rights Act.

I would also agree with the suggestion of the signatories that the NHRC may officially monitor the cases of those who are survivors of the 2002 Gulberg massacre, in the cases in the lower Courts, the Gujarat High Court and the Supreme Court.

I trust that you will give your attention to this matter and treat it as urgent.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



Romila Thapar

Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University.