

Sabrang Trust

January 9, 2018

To,
Hon Minister for MHRD
Mr Prakash Javdekar
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001
+91-11-23782698/23782387
+91-11-23382365 (FAX)
minister.hrd@gov.in

From
Teesta Setalvad
Activist, Journalist and Educationist

Dear Sir,

For the *now third time* in the *past three years* there is yet another news indicating disturbing developments. This relates to the MHRD's support for a project KHOJ between 2010 and 2014. If you may recall, on December 28, 2016 I had taken the liberty of writing to your Hon'ble self when yet another such news report had appeared suggesting a continued witch-hunt against me. I attach a copy of the earlier letter for your kind reference. **(Annexure 1)**

At the time, news reports had suggested that, through an unfortunate and misguided interpretation of the work that Sabrang Trust has been doing in schools all over the country, I, as author of some of the materials produced over the years would be 'booked for promoting hatred' and a criminal case likely to be filed against me. Now, another news report appearing yesterday (Business Standard based on PTI report) suggests that Rais Khan Pathan a former employee of CJP who appears to be functioning as a stooge of the central regime, has once again approached the Crime Branch of the Ahmedabad police with a 'complaint regarding' a project given by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) between 2010-2013 to the Khoj Project of the Sabrang Trust. (http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/guj-cops-for-hrd-ministry-reply-on-complaint-against-setalvad-118010800752_1.html: Guj cops for HRD ministry reply on complaint against Setalvad)


I would like to strongly contest these attempts by a person completely without jurisdiction or qualification to launch such a witch-hunt against me. Not only do I strongly contest the malafide charges but am writing this letter --again-- to inquire about the contents of what I believe to be a voluminous report (Bari Committee) absent from the public domain but which is being selectively quoted in sections of the media. It would be the interests of natural justice that this report that appears to be in selective hands is also made available to us.

For your information, the Khoj project and many of the relative writings were sponsored by the MHRD during the period of the central government grant and were duly reported to the Ministry annually. I would also like to categorically say that none of my writings can be construed as hate speech and in case any of the writing is so construed the same may be pointed out so that a suitable explanation can be given by me to the MHRD to avoid any unnecessary legal steps. In 2001, when a similar controversy was attempted to be raked up in Maharashtra, the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) after studying our manuals had completely cleared us of any vile charge. Now 17 years later a matter is sought to be raked up by a person who is obviously a tool in malicious hands.

I would also like to take an opportunity to assert very strongly that both individually and our organisations have been devoted to furthering the constitutional objectives in all areas of our work. The rich and contested traditions of Indian intellectual growth embodied in the writings of Jyotiba Phule, Dr B.R. Ambedkar --especially in seriously contested areas of social sciences and history have given us inspiration.

We are hopeful of a response from your ministry, Sir.

Yours Sincerely,


Teesta Setalvad



Nirant, Juhu Tara Road, Juhu, Mumbai - 400049.

Ph: 26602288/26603927 Fax: 26608252 email: sabrang@vsnl.com website: www.sabrang.com e-mail: teestateesta@gmail.com

Sabrang Trust

December 28, 2016

To,
Hon Minister for MHRD
Mr Prakash Javdekar
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001
+91-11-23782698/23782387
+91-11-23382365 (FAX)
minister.hrd@gov.in

From
Teesta Setalvad
Activist, Journalist and Educationist

Dear Sir,

For the second time in the past few months there have been two news items that indicate disturbing developments. These suggest that, through an unfortunate and misguided interpretation of the work that Sabrang Trust has been doing in schools all over the country, I, as author of some of the materials produced over the years would be 'booked for promoting hatred' and a criminal case likely to be filed against me. **(Links attached/indicated below).**

There is yet another report today that suggests that in furtherance of these objectives, now the Solicitor General has advised that an FIR be registered against me 'for hate-filled writings'. Not only do I strongly contest this but am writing this letter to inquire about the contents of what I believe to be a voluminous report (Bari Committee) absent from the public domain but which is being selectively quoted in sections of the media. As affected parties, we would like to request a copy of the said report. (<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/can-file-fir-against-teesta-setalvad-hrd-told-4447837/>) and would be obliged to receive a copy of the same.

For your information, the Khoj project and many of the relative writings were sponsored by the MHRD during the period of the central government grant and were duly reported to the Ministry annually. I would also like to categorically say that none of my writings can be construed as hate speech and in case any of the writing is so construed the same may be pointed out so that a suitable explanation can be given by me to the MHRD to avoid any unnecessary legal steps.

I would also like to take an opportunity to assert very strongly that both individually and our organisations have been devoted to furthering the constitutional objectives in all areas of our work. The rich and contested traditions of Indian intellectual growth embodied in the writings of Jyotiba Phule, Dr B.R. Ambedkar --especially in seriously contested areas of social sciences and history have given us inspiration.

We are hopeful of a response from your ministry, Sir.

Yours Sincerely,



Teesta Setalvad

1. Can file FIR against Teesta Setalvad, HRD told Can book Teesta Setalvad for spreading hatred via writings <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/can-file-fir-against-teesta-setalvad-hrd-told-4447837/>
2. Can book Teesta Setalvad for spreading hatred via writings: HRD panel <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/can-book-teesta-setalvad-for-spreading-hatred-via-writings-hrd-panel-3083498/>