



defending human rights in the courts and beyond

To  
**Om Prakash Singh,**  
DGP, Uttar Pradesh Police,  
Lucknow,  
Uttar Pradesh

Dear Sir,

Even as people across the nation mourned Mahatma Gandhi on Wednesday, January 30, 2018, CJP is appalled to note that one group disrespected both Gandhi and his legacy in a callous and violent fashion. Through our newly launched Hate Hatao app, we were alerted to a [viral video](#) that shows Hindu Mahasabha national secretary Pooja Shakun Pandey chanting "*Mahatma Nathuram Godse amar rahe*" (Long live Mahatma Nathuram Godse) before shooting at an effigy of Gandhi, after which fake blood can be seen pooling at the bottom of the effigy. The effigy is then set on fire. The incident took place in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Godse, who assassinated Gandhi on January 30, 1948, was a member of the Hindu Mahasabha.

Pandey "later told reporters that her organisation has [started a new tradition by recreating the assassination](#), and it will now be practised in a manner similar to the immolation of demon king Ravana on Dussehra," NDTV reported, adding that the Hindu Mahasabha "regards the day of Mahatma Gandhi's death as [Shaurya Divas \(Bravery Day\)](#), in honour of Nathuram Godse". The Times of India reported that Pandey told the media that [Gandhi was responsible for India's Partition](#) that led to the birth of Pakistan, and that Godse's act of killing him was admirable.

NDTV noted that in 2015, Hindu Mahasabha leader Swami Pranavananda "had announced plans to [install statues of Nathuram Godse](#) across six districts of Karnataka," and had called him "a 'patriot' who had worked with the blessings of Hindu nationalist Vinayak Damodar Savarkar."

CJP appreciates the Aligarh Police's prompt move to register charges against 13 people, including Pandey herself. The Times of India reported that Pooja Shakun Pandey, Ashok Pandey and 10-12 others [have been booked](#) under Indian Penal Code "sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 295 A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings or any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 153A (promoting enmity between different groups)".

However, we must stress that this case be given full attention, be taken forward, and that those involved in this incident be prosecuted. Within a day of its launch, our Hate Hatao app, which can be used by citizens to report instances of hate that they encounter, has received two separate reports regarding this incident. One user noted, "यह राष्ट्रपिता का अपमान व हिंसा हत्या को प्रोत्साहित करने का अपराध है।" Incidents like these can have ripple effects across the nation, and could even lead to violent consequences. They have no place in a secular democracy like India. We are committed to rooting out such hate, and request you to keep us apprised of this investigation, and all further action that is taken in this case, as well as for similar incidents in the future.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,

Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP)  
<https://cjp.org.in/>

**Copy To**  
Akash Kulhary  
SSP, Aligarh