



To,

**Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpurass**

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**Subject:** Complaint against disciples of Yati Narsinghanand abusing persons, also women, of Muslim community

Respected Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) are writing to you to bring to your attention certain videos that have been doing the rounds on social media where two men are seen abusing and threatening Muslim women as also the community.

These men did a Facebook live session and spoke at length for over 40 minutes abusing Muslim women and members of the community. While the entire video has been taken down by Facebook, there are snippets of the video that have been shared on Twitter.

In these videos, two men, Rahul Sharma and Suresh Rajput are seen using hateful abuses and vile and strong language against the women who sat at Shaheen Bagh during the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and also reveling in the glory of the violence that ensued in Tripura.

They also go on to abuse in the most virulent manner the Shaheen Bagh protestors and say unspeakable things about the women who had bravely sat for days on end in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and also mock and abuse Safoora Zargar, even though they do not mention her name, but the implication is clear. Safoora Zargar was one of the many protestors against CAA who was arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly playing a part in the Delhi riots of February 2020 and when she was arrested, she was pregnant and was granted bail after almost 3



months of being in prison, on humanitarian grounds. Sharma and Rajput can be seen making fun of her, mocking her pregnancy and saying such and more vile things.

Both, Sharma and Rajput, utter some unthinkable and unspeakable hateful things against Muslim community and Muslim women which we are refraining from reproducing here. However, we request you to go through the snippets of the video, enclosed herewith.

***The videos have been marked and annexed hereto as Annexure A, Annexure B, Annexure C and Annexure D.***

In our complaint dated October 29 to this Hon'ble Commission, we have highlighted the vandalism of mosques, houses and shops belonging to people of Muslim community. These unfortunate incidents have been hailed and celebrated by Sharma and Rajput and say that the Hindus in Tripura have awakened and have brought in Diwali in the right way. They also threaten that if all the Hindus in the country are awakened, then incidents of Tripura will resonate throughout the country.

Suresh Rajput is admittedly, a disciple and follower of Yati Narsinghanand who is a well-known priest of Dasna Temple in Uttar Pradesh; also known for giving hateful speeches against the Muslim community as also for being abusive against women in general. CJP has written to this Hon'ble Commission on previous occasions about Yati and his Islamophobic diatribe.

Suresh Rajput is also known to have participated in and led a rally against 'love jihad' in Delhi, where they raised slogans like "Ka\*\*Mullo ko goli maro (Shoot the Muslims)" and "Jab mulle kaate jayenge, tab Ram Ram chilayenge (When Muslims are killed, we will shout Ram Ram)" in the presence of the Delhi police.

### **Yati Narsinghanand and hate ecosystem**

In our complaint dated August 11, about Yati, we have highlighted how he has made derogatory reference about workers like plumbers, electricians, delivery boys, vegetable vendors are Muslims who enter Hindu homes, befriend Hindu women who then fall prey to the 'Jihadis'. The complaint has highlighted how such statements tend to not only create a prejudice against honest, hard-working people from the Muslim community who might be working as plumbers, electricians etc, but also have the distinct possibility – given the political and social capital enjoyed by the speaker – to cause prejudice and adversely affect their livelihood.

In the public address, Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati also made deplorable statements like most prostitutes are Hindu women, and they are the ones who fall in love with 'Jihadi Musalman' and get blackmailed by their objectionable pictures.

***CJP complaint to NCM dated August 11, 2021 is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure E***

However, Yati is not a sole perpetrator and has built what seems like a gang of rouge men who go around disseminating hatred against Muslim community. What it seems like is that he trains these men under his patronage, brainwashes them into spreading hatred and sets them out to fulfill what he started off doing.

In September, this Commission responded to our complaint against one of his followers, Vikas Sehrawat alias 'Malik Bhai', and written to Meerut's Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) requesting a detailed report within 15 days. In our complaint dated July 22 against Sehrawat highlighted the series of Islamophobic speeches given by him. He openly issued death threats against Muslims and said that he had declared a war against them. He appealed to his audience that either they kill Muslims or die. In the same video, he asked his 'guru' Yati Narsinghanand to trust him and not worry, because he would "take care" of all Muslims.

***CJP complaint to NCM dated July 22, 2021 is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure F***

Suresh Rajput started his YouTube channel named 'Hindu Sher Boy' three years ago. Which now has about four and a half lakh subscribers. Suresh considers Narasinghanand Saraswati as his god. He says, "I came to know through Facebook how much wrong is happening with Hindus. Muslims do love jihad and trap our girls. These people also do land jihad and grab our land. I felt that somewhere I should raise my voice for the interest of my religion and my sisters and daughters. With this thinking I am associated with Yati Narasinghanand Saraswati." This quote has been reported by a news portal, News Laundry, in its report dated August 31, 2021.

***The News Laundry report in hindi language has been annexed hereto as Annexure G***

As the chief priest of the Dasna temple in Ghaziabad, it appears that Yati has created Dasna as a breeding ground for training and manipulating politically-motivated Hindus to act against Muslims and disrupt harmony. His disciples have been pulled up by the Police on grounds of law-and-order problems, time and again, and it seems like Hindu men are being systematically radicalised (not trained) through sustained utterances of men like Yati Narsinghanand who calls these men "mere bachche" (my children).

Thus, while action should be taken against these individual perpetrators, taking action against Yati is of paramount importance and we hope this Hon'ble Commission will do the needful in this regard in reference to our earlier complaint of August 11, as mentioned above and also enclosed herewith.

**The impact**

These perpetrators of hate such as Sharma and Rajput brazenly make such hateful comments inciting hate, promoting enmity amongst communities and provoking the Hindu community to act against the Muslim community. Their actions go unchecked since the likes of them have free platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram where they massive reach not only amongst people who follow them and their posts but also in the number of times such videos are shared among many other users. The reach of such videos on social media platforms is massive and is difficult to fathom.

In such a case, it has become imperative that these perpetrators are brought to book because actions on behalf of social media platforms of taking down such hateful content and in some cases terminating the account also are of little use. Since, they keep uploading such content frequently and also create duplicate accounts, so they are able to keep up with their diatribe.



Such expression of extreme hate with a clear communal objective to establish religious hegemony upon a community that is already a minority in numbers in the country, is deplorable and against the constitutional values that we uphold as citizens of this country.

We are hopeful that this esteemed Commission will do the needful to protect the interest of minorities in India so that targeted attacks do not destroy the social and secular fabric of our democratic country.

In **Pravasi Bhalai Sangathan v. Union of India**, (Ref: AIR 2014 SC 1591, at para. 7.) the Supreme Court has unambiguously stated that hate speech is an effort to marginalise individuals based on their membership to a group, that can have a social impact. Moreover, the Court stated that hate speech lays the groundwork for broad attacks on the vulnerable that can range from discrimination, to ostracism, deportation, violence, and even to genocide. Therefore, the aforementioned news items are tantamount to the perpetration of genocide, and must be considered to be in violation of Article 21 of the Constitution.

### **Violations of Indian Penal Code**

The hateful content of the videos of Sharma and Rajput amount to violations of the following sections of the Indian Penal Code:

**Section 153A:** “Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, or commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity, or shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

**Section 295A:** “whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens of India by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

**Section 298:** “Whoever, with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that persons or places any object in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.”

**Section 505(2):** “Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes.— Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement or report containing rumour or alarming news with intent to create or promote, or which is likely to create or promote, on grounds of religion,

race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

**503. Criminal intimidation.**—Whoever threatens another with any injury to his person, reputation or property, or to the person or reputation of any one in whom that person is interested, with intent to cause alarm to that person, or to cause that person to do any act which he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do any act which that person is legally entitled to do, as the means of avoiding the execution of such threat, commits criminal intimidation.

*Explanation.*—A threat to injure the reputation of any deceased person in whom the person threatened is interested, is within this section.

**504. Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace.**—Whoever intentionally insults, and thereby gives provocation to any person, intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause him to break the public peace, or to commit any other offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

**509. Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman.**—Whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any woman, utters any words, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen, by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, 2[shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, and also with fine].

Moreover, this speech amounts to hate speech that also violates the constitutional provision of **Article 15** of the Constitution of India that prohibits citizens from discriminating on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc. Such comments are not only vicious but hurts the sentiments of the Muslim community and highlights the virulent Islamophobia in the country.

The community subjected to this form of vicious hatred has been transformed from being persons to objects. This dehumanization has resulted in calls for elimination of the community and the same is nothing short of a call for genocide. The call to genocide is a violation of the right to life and personal liberty of an entire community under Article 21 of the Constitution, and needs to be dealt with strictly. The calls for social and economic boycott being made are the precursors to genocide. Hate speech which repeatedly dehumanizes an entire community, makes them targets of vigilante violence.

Our consistent complaints to this Hon’ble Commission are an endeavour in our fight against hate and the atmosphere of hate that is being created by such perpetrators who are going on unabated at this point and such brazen attacks need a relentless struggle to stifle them.

We are hopeful that this esteemed Commission will do the needful to protect the interest of minorities in India so that targeted violence and incidents emerging due to incitement from hate



speech do not destroy the social and secular fabric of our democratic country. That immediate action is needed in this instance to avoid something extreme like hate crimes that are manifest in ghettoization, social ostracism, gendered and other violence.

### **Prayers**

1. Take cognizance of the hate speech made by Rahul Sharma and Suresh Rajput under section 9(d) of the National Commission for Minorities, 1992
2. Direct the Uttar Pradesh Police to register an FIR against Rahul Sharma and Suresh Rajput under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code
3. Take expedite actions in the complaint made by us against Yati Narsinghanand that highlights how he is creating an ecosystem of hate, so that such hateful speeches from his followers are deterred in the future
4. Undertake any other action as it may deem fit.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary

### **Annexures**

Annexures A-D	Video snippets of Rahul Sharma and Suresh Rajput
Annexure E	CJP complaint to NCM dated August 11, 2021
Annexure F	CJP complaint to NCM dated July 22, 2021
Annexure G	The News Laundry report in the Hindi language