



Date: February 9, 2022

To,

Director General of Police

Chhattisgarh Police  
Police Headquarters  
Sector-19, Naya Raipur  
Chhattisgarh – 492002

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**Subject:** Plea for criminal action against Sadhvi Vibhanand Giri for hate speech at Raipur Dharam Sansad

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) are concerned over a video that has gone viral on social media. This video was most likely shot at the Dharam Sansad held in Raipur on December 26 - the same event where Kalicharan aka Kalicharan Maharaj, alias Abhijit Dhananjay Sarag, had made derogatory comments against Mahatma Gandhi, and for which he was arrested.

The woman identified in the video is Sadhvi Vibhanand Giri, who can be heard telling Hindu men to abduct Muslim women and sexually attack them. According to this woman, such an act will create fear in the minority community and keep them away from Hindu men. She is feeding on the bogey of so-called 'love jihad' – the term the right-wing uses for interfaith marriages.

“If any Muslim man laid their eyes on a Hindu girl from today onwards, their women will give birth to Hindu children, without a *nikah* or *pheras*,” she threatens thus, openly glorifying rape and promoting rape culture.

She then calls upon the Hindu youth to also question and attack the women in their own families. And take action against the Hindu women who dare to “run away” with, or have a relationship with Muslims. She tells the Hindu men to create fear even in their own homes, among their own women and the parents of the women they suspect to be in a relationship with a Muslim man. She tells Hindu “boys and sons” to keep track of the women to ensure that they do not fall for Muslim men, saying, “If a Hindu girl runs away with a Muslim youth, go after her, bring her back. Beat her up and her parents.”

From this Dharam Sansad event, Kalicharan was the only accused arrested and accused of Sedition for using derogatory language against Mahatma Gandhi. However, the woman hate monger, who openly called for rape of Muslim women, and violence against Hindu women and their parents, has not been arrested so far.



Since this video, albeit, belatedly, has now surfaced, action can be taken against Giri for making these incendiary statements calling for sexual violence against women of the minority community. These statements not only stand to destroy the communal harmony in the country but are also reflective of a pernicious state of affairs, where a call for sexual violence of women is being given openly.

We are compelled to state here that such vile and brazen acts of sexual violence against the minority community in a concerted manner, have already taken place, ashamedly, in Gujarat during the riots of 2002, as you must already be aware. The unruly and uncontrolled mob had wreaked havoc on the streets of Gujarat in certain pockets where the Muslim minority families were residing. The mobs went about committing these crimes of sexual violence openly and in broad daylight as well. The Gujarat carnage stands out for its extensive and specific targeting of women, young girls and children, who were subjected to the most sadistic and vicious forms of violence. Women suffered the most bestial forms of brutality, sexual violence, including rape, gang rape, insertion of objects into their bodies, stripping, and molestation. A majority of the women who suffered this violence were then burnt alive. Rape was used as an instrument for the subjugation and humiliation of a community. In most instances of sexual violence, the women victims were stripped and paraded naked, then gangraped, and thereafter quartered and burnt beyond recognition.

In a country where such a horrific incident has already taken place, such calls for sexual violence against the same minority community can be perilous to public order at large and undesirable for a state like Chhattisgarh.

### **Offences**

We feel that Giri's statements warrant invoking of the following sections of the Indian Penal Code against her:

153A (Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion)

295A (Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs)

153 (Wantonly giving provocation, with intent to cause riot),

153B (Imputation, assertions prejudicial to national-integration),

298 (Uttering words, etc., with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings),

505(2) (Statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes),

503 (Criminal intimidation),

504 (Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace),

509 (Word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman),



120B (criminal conspiracy)

121. Waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the Government of India.

115. Abetment of offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life.—if offence not committed

The Police may invoke any other sections of IPC or provisions of any other relevant law against Giri, as they may deem fit and necessary in this case.

The 267th Law Commission Report on Hate Speech agrees with this stance and states that:

“Hate speech has the potential of provoking individuals or society to commit acts of terrorism, genocides, ethnic cleansing etc. Such speech is considered outside the realm of protective discourse. Indisputably, offensive speech has real and devastating effects on people’s lives and risks their health and safety. It is harmful and divisive for communities and hampers social progress. If left unchecked hate speech can severely affect right to life of every individual.”

In *Firoz Iqbal Khan vs Union of India (W.P Civil No. 956 of 2020)*, the apex court said, “The edifice of a democratic society committed to the rule of law under a regime of constitutional rights, values and duties, is founded on the co-existence of communities. India is a melting pot of civilisations cultures, religions and languages. Any attempt to vilify a religious community must be viewed with grave disfavour by this Court as the custodian of constitutional values.”

We urge you to take cognizance of the video enclosed herewith, register a case against the perpetrator identified as Sadhvi Vibhanand Giri and arrest her for the cognizable offences.

Yours sincerely,

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary