



The Editor,

Desh Live

Subject: Fake, defamatory and potentially inflammatory news uploaded on your YouTube channel

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to bring to your urgent attention a misleading and potentially inflammatory video that has been uploaded to your YouTube channel. This video shares fake news about journalist and human rights defender Teesta Setalvad, who is the secretary of Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), claiming she had organized a meeting to make a movie called *The Gujarat Files* to purportedly counter the recently released *The Kashmir Files*.

The video claims that actor Naseeruddin Shah, filmmaker Rahul Dholakia, activist Harsh Mander, among others, were present at this meeting. It is speculated in this video that Shah will play the role of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat when communal violence broke out in February 2002.

The video titled **गुजरात फाइल्स की पटकथा तैयार, नसिरुद्दीन शाह होंगे हीरो! तिस्ता के घर पर हुई अहम बैठक** may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlwfadkDnhE>

We wish to point out that this video carries fake news, attempts to attribute baseless motives to Teesta Setalvad and also unnecessarily pits a peace-loving senior artiste Naseeruddin Shah against the Prime Minister of India, apart from dragging director Rahul Dholakia, activist Harsh Mander and even the family of slain Congress Member of Parliament Ahesan Jafri into the controversy.

The timing of this video is especially noteworthy given how Ahesan Jafri's widow Zakia Jafri had moved a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court asking for an inquiry into the wider conspiracy behind the Gujarat violence of 2002. CJP, through Teesta Setalvad, was the second petitioner in the case.

What's worse, is that your baseless video is now being used by other YouTube channels to spin similar baseless stories. One such example of a video titled **गुजरात फाइल्स बनना शुरू? नसीरुद्दीन शाह ने उड़ाई मोदी की नींद!** may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM6bNp7AvzE>

In this video The Live TV Anchor Jayanti Jha has attributed the information to journalist Sahal Qureshi and even carried a few clips from Desh Live where the bottom banner carried the "news" that the script for the movie was ready and that Naseeruddin Shah would play the "hero".

What is disturbing is how despite being entirely baseless, your "fake news" story went on to speculate if the story of The Gujarat Files would revolve around the Gulberg society massacre as it claims that Ahesan Jafri's son Tanveer Jafri was also present at the alleged meeting organized by Teesta Setalvad at



her home. The video goes on to point out how Dholakia had directed a movie called Parzania in 2005 that starred Naseeruddin Shah in the role of Darabhai Mody, father of teenager Azhar Mody, who went missing during the Gulberg society massacre.

The rest of the news report is based entirely on speculation that a movie by the name of The Gujarat Files is in development, and does not provide any evidence of the involvement of any of the aforementioned people with the movie.

We would like to point out to you that the pictures you have used in your video are from a commemorative event organized in Mumbai by CJP on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gujarat violence. Tanveer Jafri, Naseeruddin Shah and Azhar Mody's mother Rupabehn Mody were present at the commemorative event in Mumbai as was director Rahul Dholakia.

Although the said event was held at a Mumbai amphitheater on February 27, 2022, Sahal Qureshi claimed that the meeting took place at Teesta Setalvad's home on March 26 or 27, i.e a whole month later! He then goes on to speculate that a witness in the Gulberg society case named Imtiaz will tell his side of the story via the movie, without explaining how he arrived at this conclusion.

But CJP would like to clarify that not only was the event held on February 27, it was also broadcast live on YouTube and had nothing to do with any alleged secret meeting at Teesta Setalvad's home, but was an event that could be viewed by anyone on YouTube! It may be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHVad7Z44sI>

We would therefore urge you to please take down the video as it spreads malicious rumours about Teesta Setalvad and the aforementioned people. These rumours have the potential to spark hatred and suspicion against peace-loving citizens and cause harm to their reputations, and therefore the videos are not only inflammatory but also defamatory.

Citizens for Justice and Peace

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary