



Date: April 7, 2022

To,
Legal Affairs Department,
Youtube

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

Dear Sir,

This is to bring to your urgent attention two misleading and potentially inflammatory videos that have been uploaded to your platform. These videos peddle 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 videos claim that actor Naseeruddin Shah, filmmaker Rahul Dholakia, activist Harsh Mander, among others, were present at this meeting. It is claimed 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 first video is titled **गुजरात फाइल्स बनना शुरू? नसीरुद्दीन शाह ने उड़ाई मोदी की नींद!** ((Translation: Gujarat Files being made. Naseeruddin Shah drives away Modi's sleep!)) has been uploaded to the channel called The Live TV and may be viewed here:

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

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.

The Live TV Anchor Jayanti Jha attributes the information to journalist Sahal Qureshi who she claims broke the story on his YouTube channel Desh Live. This is the second video we would like to bring to your attention:

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

The Live TV 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”. The “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. It also refers to a tweet by Vinod Kapri where he had spoken about a fact-based movie of the Gujarat violence titled The Gujarat Files, and wondered if PM Modi would allow ensure the movie is allowed to be released. It is based on this tweet that The Live TV goes on to speculate that Kapri also might have something to do with the movie.

Meanwhile Desh Live has used a few pictures from a commemorative event organized in Mumbai by CJP on the 20th anniversary of the Gujarat violence. The anchor Sahal Qureshi used a picture of Tanveer Jafri, Naseeruddin Shah and Azhar Mody’s mother Rupabehn Mody who were present at the commemorative event in Mumbai. He also used another image of director Rahul Dholakia from the event. Although the said event was held at a Mumbai amphitheater on February 27, Qureshi claims the meeting took place at Teesta Setalvad’s home on March 26 or 27. 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 YouTube to please take down the two videos by The Live TV and Desh Live as they spread 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