

September 16, 2026

To,

Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya
Delhi High Court

Shri Anurag Kumar, IPS
Commissioner of Police, Delhi

Illegal detention. Assault inside a police station. No FIR against the police personnel named by the journalists.

We demand an immediate FIR, preservation of CCTV evidence, a fair and independent investigation, and criminal and departmental action against the police personnel responsible.

JUSTICE FOR SHAHEEN AND NAFISA KHAN

PUBLIC PETITION

On September 3, 2026, journalists Shaheen Khan and Nafisa Khan were reporting in Saket, Delhi, around the inauguration of a new wing of Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, an event attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. They were doing what journalists routinely do: reporting from the ground, recording what they saw and questioning why the civic machinery had been mobilised so extensively around a VIP visit.

Instead of being allowed to continue their reporting, the two journalists were illegally detained by the police and taken to Saket Police Station. The sisters have given a detailed account of what followed. They say their phones were taken by police personnel. They were threatened with an FIR and lock-up. They were then subjected to physical violence inside the police station.

Shaheen Khan has named the police personnel involved, including Saket SHO Dinesh Kumar and women police personnel Sonam Solanki and Renuka Chaudhary. She has identified the locations inside the police station where the assault allegedly took place. According to the sisters, they were slapped, kicked and punched, their hair and clothes were pulled, and they were dragged upstairs. They have alleged that police personnel used a baton against them. The sisters have further alleged that the violence took a communal turn when police personnel saw the name “Mohammad Khan” on an incoming call and made a remark about Shaheen being Muslim. They have described further physical violence following this exchange.

These are serious allegations of illegal detention, physical assault, intimidation and communal targeting by police personnel inside a police station.

The Evidence Exists

The journalists have identified CCTV cameras and specific areas inside the police station that may capture crucial parts of the incident. They have pointed to the reception area, corridors and staircase through which they say they were taken. They have repeatedly demanded that this footage be preserved. They have also undergone medical examination and reported injuries.

There are therefore records and evidence that can help establish what happened: CCTV footage, medical and medico-legal records, police station records, duty rosters, PCR records, the identities of personnel on duty and the statements of witnesses.

This evidence must be secured now. CCTV footage must not be allowed to disappear. Police records must not be altered. The officers accused of misconduct must not be permitted to control the evidence or influence the investigation.

A Police Denial is Not an Investigation

If Shaheen and Nafisa unlawfully obstructed a VVIP route, that can be established through evidence. If their detention was lawful, the legal basis and police records must establish it. If they were assaulted inside Saket Police Station, the CCTV footage, medical evidence and witness accounts must establish that. If communal remarks were made, that allegation must be investigated.

The answer to these allegations cannot simply be another statement from the same police machinery whose personnel have been accused. The police cannot investigate allegations of police violence by simply denying them.

Six Days without an FIR

The most disturbing question is what has happened since. Shaheen and Nafisa have named the personnel they say were involved. They have given a written complaint. They have identified potential CCTV evidence. They have undergone medical examinations.

Yet, six days after the incident, there was still no reported FIR against the police personnel named by the journalists.

The delay cannot be treated as an administrative detail. An FIR is the starting point for a criminal investigation. Where the complaint concerns alleged assault and other wrongdoing by police personnel, refusing to register or delaying registration of the case raises an even more serious question of institutional accountability. The women should not have to spend days fighting the very institution whose personnel they have accused simply to have their complaint formally investigated.

This is about Police Impunity

Shaheen and Nafisa are journalists. They were reporting. They were asking questions. Their work may have been uncomfortable for those being questioned, but being a journalist who asks questions is not an offence. Even where a journalist is alleged to have violated a traffic restriction or obstructed a police operation, the law does not give police personnel a licence to illegally detain, assault, threaten or humiliate them.

And a police station cannot become a space where alleged violence is shielded from scrutiny simply because the accused are themselves police officers. If police personnel are found to have assaulted these journalists, there must be consequences. If the investigation establishes that they were illegally detained, there must be accountability. If communal abuse was directed at them, that too must be investigated and dealt with in accordance with law.

No uniform can place a person above the law.

We Demand:

- 1. Immediate Registration of an FIR-** An FIR must be registered immediately on the complaint of Shaheen Khan and Nafisa Khan against the police personnel they have named. The women must not be forced to repeatedly approach the police simply to secure registration of their complaint.
- 2. Immediate Preservation of all CCTV Footage-** All CCTV footage from Saket Police Station and relevant surrounding areas covering the period before, during and after the incident must be immediately preserved and secured in accordance with the Supreme Court judgment of *Paramvir Singh Saini vs. Baljit Singh* [SLP (CRIMINAL) NO.3543 of 2020]. This must include footage from the reception area, corridors, staircase and other locations identified by the journalists. The footage must be protected against deletion, alteration, tampering or selective destruction.
- 3. A Fair, Independent and Impartial Investigation-** The investigation must not be controlled by officers who are implicated in the complaint or by personnel directly subordinate to them. It must examine the circumstances of the women's detention, the seizure of their phones, the alleged assault, the alleged communal remarks and the conduct of every police personnel present. CCTV footage, medical and medico-legal records, station diary entries, duty rosters, PCR records, phone records where legally relevant, and witness statements must all be examined.
- 4. Action against the Police Personnel Responsible-** Any police officer found responsible for illegal detention, assault, intimidation, communal abuse, destruction or suppression of evidence, or any other misconduct must face appropriate criminal and departmental action. The fact that the accused are police personnel must never become a reason for lesser accountability.

We Will not Accept Silence in Place of Justice. The demand is simple.

Shaheen and Nafisa should not have to fight the police to obtain the investigation they are entitled to. This is not a demand for guilt to be presumed. It is a demand that the law

investigate allegations of police misconduct with the same seriousness with which it investigates allegations against everyone else.

A police station must not become a place where accountability stops.

Justice for Shaheen and Nafisa Khan.

End police impunity.

Names of Signatories

Brinda Karat, Senior Leader CPI (M) and former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Aruna Roy, Social Activist, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghatan (MKSS)

Anjana Prakash, former Judge

Sagarika Ghosh Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

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Syeda Hamid, Feminist, Writer

Aditi Mehta former Bureaucrat and Citizens Activist

Sujata Madhok, Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ)

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Hasina Khan, Feminist Activist

Sabhah Khan, Feminist Activist

Muniza Khan, Feminist Activist

Madhu Prasad, Associate Professor (retd), University of Delhi; Spokesperson, All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE)

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Shabnam Hashmi, Feminist Activist

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Sandhya Gokhale: Activist, Feminist and Civil Liberties Activist

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Manisha Gupte, Women's Rights Activist, Pune.

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Tabassum Barnagarwala, Journalist

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Sharad Raj, Film maker

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Naazish Shah, Advocate

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Anita Rampal, Educationist

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Clotilda D'Souza, Entrepreneur

Balveer Arora, Centre for Multilevel Federalism

Ammu Abraham, Feminist activist, F.A.O.W.

Sancia, Tour guide

John Dayal, Writer and Activist

Dr. Sanju Sharma, Teaching

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Jameela Jummani, Retired Teacher

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Radha Kumar, Writer

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Anita Dighe, Concerned citizen

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Avinash Awate, Retired Smart Old Outdated Thinker
Pratap Antony, Nil
Habeeb ur Rahman, Director Business Development
Mahendra Sharma, Retired

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Nina Rai, Cat rescue & foster

Sharad Kohli, Writer

Kishore Gajbhiye, Practicing Advocate, Former IAS Officer, President Samaj Samata Sangh.

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NA, Student

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Syed Badar Imam, Retired Indian Air Force Officer

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Jayati Ghosh, Economist

Paankhi Agrawal, Researcher

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Dilshad Ali, Teaching

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SB N Quadri, Lawyer

Bindu Desai, DR

Syed Hasan, Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri

Mark Selwyn, Business

Gautam Bhattacharya, Professiona;

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Sumanta Banerjee, Journalist

Prof. Qamarjahan, Retired Professor and activist

Prof. Dipak Malik, Thinker/writer

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Winnie Saldanha, We For You Association

D. Narasimha Reddy, Retired Professor

Rakesh, Retired

Irfan Engineer,

Siddhartha Mitra, Architect

S n haque,

Release them in the name of freedom, Consulting Editor, The Economic Times

Harchand Bhinder,

Kamaxi Bhate, Doctor

Sushmita Dutta, Homemaker

Muzzammil Mohammad Khan, Teacher

Muzzammil Mohammad, IB Educator

Muzzammil Mohammad Khan, Eastern Public School

Muzzammil, Islamic Teacher

Muzzammil Mohammad Khan, EPS

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Shiwangi Singh, Student of History

Qazi Farid Alam, Social activist

Goutam Dass, Publishing Professional

Rukmini Rao, Feminist Activist

Narinder Kaur, Punjab istri sabha

manju jain, housewife

Manabesh Sarkar, Research Activist

Manabesh Sarkar, Research Activist

Vasudha Sardar, Farmer, social activist

Preeti Mehra, independent journalist and teacher

Priya Tripathi, IT Services

Dr. Seth, Academic

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Subhashini Ali, Political activist

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Nandini Rao, Feminist activist

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DUSHYANT PARASHAR, ADVOCATE ON RECORD. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA.

Anil Singh, Independent journalist

Neeraj, Retired

S. Javed, Engineer - Self Employed
Veena Jammu, N.F.I.W
Jasreet Kaur, Retired professor
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Sandhya Phadke, Individual
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OM PRAKASH RAWAT, Pensioner
Om prakash Rawat, Pensioner
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Pravin Ganvir, Advocate
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Sumit Arora, Physician
Akhileshwari Ramagoud, Academic and retired journalist
Tanika Sarkar, Retired Professor. JNU.