



Press Release: 30+ Diasporic Indian and Human Rights Organizations Condemn Persecution of Political Prisoners Leading to Death of Father Stan Swamy

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Over thirty diasporic Indian and Human Rights organizations from across North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia have released a statement on the occasion of the death of Father Stan Swamy, the 84-year-old Jesuit priest who was charged along with fifteen others under India's draconian anti-terror law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, on the basis of digital evidence that multiple forensic experts have determined was [planted](#) on the devices of those accused. The case, referred to as the Bhima-Koregaon case, has led to the imprisonment of some of India's most celebrated human rights defenders without trial for years on end.

The statement notes that Father Stan Swamy dedicated over two decades of his life to "committed, peaceful, and legal struggle" for the rights of the most marginalized, specifically the Adivasi indigenous communities of the Indian state of Jharkhand, "by advocating for the implementation of provisions of the Indian constitution and Supreme Court judgments." That he was implicated under false charges is therefore a matter of abiding shame. The statement is clear in asserting that Father Stan Swamy's death was a "direct result of the inhumanity of a regime that filed the false case against him. It is the direct result of the draconian law, the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), and the inhumane treatment meted out to prisoners during a global pandemic."

The statement condemns "the regime that persecuted Father Stan, denied him dignity and care, and hounded him to his death," and "the continued persecution of the rest of the arrestees under false and trumped up charges during a global pandemic." It demands a judicial enquiry into Father Stan's death and demands the release of all those wrongfully arrested, as well as the repeal of the UAPA.

Please see this link for the full and current list of signatories:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kh89I5WsFNnc0ACT2jFOBI8o36hoyuPGUz_0CWwcpIk/edit?usp=sharing

Please see this link for the full statement:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qv_hQXRa4GbzuMENfolu0SYYqCSiF-qtCHirerWq-sl/edit?usp=sharing