



To,
Shri Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India,
South Block, Raisina Hill,
New Delhi.
India-110011.

Date: Dec 26, 2012

Sub: Urgent need for police reforms and capacity enhancements of Judicial Infrastructure

Respected Prime Minister,

I, Khader Basha Syed, Co-Founder, Praja-RAAG (Research, Analysis and Advocacy Group), Bangalore, hereby would like to submit the following for your consideration.

At the outset, on behalf of 8000 strong community that Praja.in (Online Citizen's group) represents, would like to condemn the recent incident of brutal rape case of Delhi in strongest possible terms. No amounts of words are enough to condemn this barbaric act and behavior. This incidence puts everybody to shame and this is a blot on Indian Culture of high moral values of at most respect to our women and elders. Young boys and girls are out on streets, seeking some comfort, compassionate words from our leaders of this country. You being the head of the executive branch of Indian government, is looked upon to put some balm on the recent incidence of brutality. These young boys and girls who are protesting are looking for comforting words from the government that these incidences will be not allowed to happen and every measure will be taken to provide a sense of security to the all citizens, specially our women, our daughters and sisters.

I am very sorry to say that, for almost one week no such message came from you or your office. I am lodging a strong protest with you for not speaking to the nation immediately after this incident was reported in news media. Your address to the nation came after one week of the incidence. It is too late and too little. Sir, Ultimately, BUCK STOPS WITH YOU, for safety and security of the nation, specially the poor and vulnerable like 23 years old 'Amanat'.

These incidents are wake up call to all of us to take note of the degradation that has crept into our daily lives. The manifestation is visible in the casual manner that we attach to such incidences. You will agree that this is neither the first time such incidence has taken plane nor going to be the last one. But sheer increase in such incidences makes one agitated and shakes one's souls. After this incident, as every Indian is outraged, I am also forced to be outraged and questioning my soul, isn't this enough? Do we need more such cases to happen before we really wake up and say enough? Sir, I would say this is beyond my toleration and this behavior should stop forthright.



According to National Crime Records Bureau (under Union Ministry of Home Affairs), in 2011 alone, around 24,206 (Twenty four thousand two Hundred and six) cases were reported compared to 2487 cases in 1953. That is a jump of 873 %. What alarms is, out of 24, 206 cases, only 26% saw the success in conviction. That means 17,914 offenders were either let off or didn't get the punishment that they deserve. If these figures don't shake our souls and minds, nothing else will.

Source – NCRB, 2011 Report - <http://ncrb.nic.in/CD-CII2011/cii-2011/figure%20at%20a%20glance.pdf>

In dealing with these crimes, though our country has the laws to deal with but you and I know the truth about justice dispensed in vast majority of the cases. We come across failure and more failures in each and every step of this journey for seeking the justice. From filing FIRs, investigation, trials in courts to speed at which justice is rendered has failed the victims and thus as a society, we have failed to deliver the justice to the victims. In vast majority of the cases, the offenders walk free and those who are convicted are given the notional punishment. Resulting in more rapes, more victims. Vast majority of these victims are poor, who have no one to look for in the journey of seeking justice.

If you and your government fail to assuage the feelings and pain of the nation at this moment, I am afraid sir, people will lose faith in both the governments of the day and the law & order system of the country. I am looking forward to your leadership to address this issue urgently and time is now to address the issue. It is with this faith that I am writing this letter to apprise you about my anguish, hurt and pain of failure to protect our daughter and sisters on street of India, be it in Delhi, Bangalore or in remote village of Tirupura. Through this letter I would like to request for your urgent intervention and following action to stem the fall in our rule of law system. I humbly request your kind attention and action to speed up the process of judicial reforms to dispense of lakhs and lakhs of cases that are pending in courts all across India. It is time to complete the police reforms. Let us use this horrific incidence as a divine wakeup call and correct the wrongs that have crept in our law & order machinery to start with reforms in judicial system and police department across India.

Through you, I request your highness to consider these proposals.

In near term, immediately,

1. In consultation with Chief Justice of Supreme Court, ensure that High Courts in every state constitute special courts to try the cases of crime, violence against women filed since January 2010 till December 2012.
2. Work with the state governments to see that through the state high courts to ensure that above cases are heard and dispensed off before the end of the year 2013.
3. Instruct and order all the state governments to help the respective high courts in their state to have the necessary facilities and logistics to try the cases on daily basis.
4. Let there be a no room for repeated adjournments of the cases as seen normally in courts.
5. Instruct the Finance and Law ministry to help states with necessary funds and logistics to try the cases on daily basis.



In parallel,

1. Institute a committee to oversee the judicial reform process including capacity building of Indian Judicial system.
2. Issue a time line of 3 to 5 years to complete the process of judicial reforms including judicial capacity enhancements all across India.
3. Work with state governments to build enough courts and judicial infrastructure to dispense of the lakhs of pending cases in time bound manner.
4. Issue an order to all states to see that work on capacity enhancement is started forthright without any delay.
5. Issue an order to all the state governments to complete the Police reforms in respective states within 3 years, failing which, state be put on notice of getting dismissed and president rule is imposed.

I do hope that you will agree with my proposal and the sentiments that are expressed here. I do hope that you will give an urgent consideration to the request that is made through this letter. I do hope that, you, through the office of Chief Justice of Supreme Court will take up this matter at the highest authorities and necessary action is taken to uphold the faith that ordinary citizen's like me repose in highest court of law.

Thanking you and I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Khader Basha Syed