

Sabrang Trust

December 28, 2016

To,
Hon Minister for MHRD
Mr Prakash Javdekar
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From
Teesta Setalvad
Activist, Journalist and Educationist

Dear Sir,

For the second time in the past few months there have been two news items that indicate disturbing developments. These suggest that, through an unfortunate and misguided interpretation of the work that Sabrang Trust has been doing in schools all over the country, I, as author of some of the materials produced over the years would be 'booked for promoting hatred' and a criminal case likely to be filed against me. **(Links attached/indicated below).**

There is yet another report today that suggests that in furtherance of these objectives, now the Solicitor General has advised that an FIR be registered against me 'for hate-filled writings'. Not only do I strongly contest this but am writing this letter to inquire about the contents of what I believe to be a voluminous report (Bari Committee) absent from the public domain but which is being selectively quoted in sections of the media. As affected parties, we would like to request a copy of the said report. (<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/can-file-fir-against-teesta-setalvad-hrd-told-4447837/>) and would be obliged to receive a copy of the same.

For your information, the Khoj project and many of the relative writings were sponsored by the MHRD during the period of the central government grant and were duly reported to the Ministry annually. I would also like to categorically say that none of my writings can be construed as hate speech and in case any of the writing is so construed the same may be pointed out so that a suitable explanation can be given by me to the MHRD to avoid any unnecessary legal steps.

I would also like to take an opportunity to assert very strongly that both individually and our organisations have been devoted to furthering the constitutional objectives in all areas of our work. The rich and contested traditions of Indian intellectual growth embodied in the writings of Jyotiba Phule, Dr B.R. Ambedkar --especially in seriously contested areas of social sciences and history have given us inspiration.

We are hopeful of a response from your ministry, Sir.

Yours Sincerely,



Teesta Setalvad

1. Can file FIR against Teesta Setalvad, HRD told Can book Teesta Setalvad for spreading hatred via writings <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/can-file-fir-against-teesta-setalvad-hrd-told-4447837/>
2. Can book Teesta Setalvad for spreading hatred via writings: HRD panel <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/can-book-teesta-setalvad-for-spreading-hatred-via-writings-hrd-panel-3083498/>