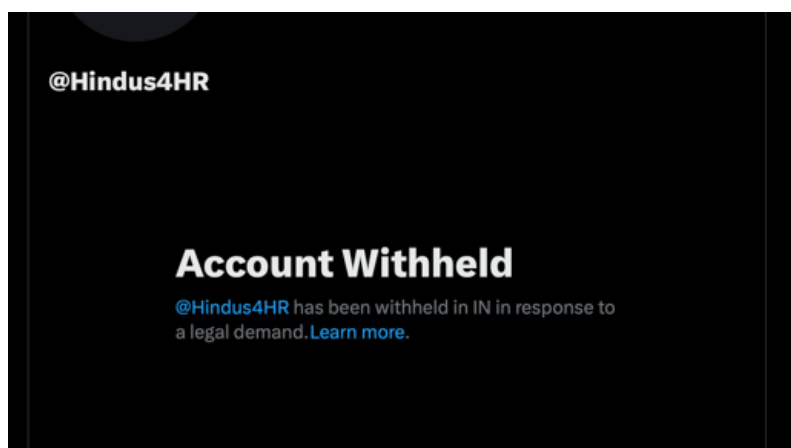


PRESS RELEASE

THE MODI GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO SILENCE US AND WE WILL FIGHT BACK

Washington D.C. Monday October 16, 2023: The Modi government is attempting to silence our voice by shutting down our Twitter account in India in collusion with Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter).

In the early hours of October 14th, we learnt that X had "withheld" our Twitter account in India, "in response to a legal demand," presumably by the Government of India. Our ally, Indian American Muslim Council's Twitter account has also been "withheld" similarly. There was no prior intimation by X, nor does it have an appeal process for this type of suspension, except in a court of law.



We have no idea why we have been shut down, but we can take a guess: The mighty Modi raj is scared of a movement of progressive Hindus and their supporters speaking up to save Indian democracy. Their action shows that our truth-telling, our constant insistence on justice, have become a thorn in their side. The truth frightens them.

What's clear is that there is a coordinated plan of transnational repression by the Modi government, assisted by their eager partners in the diaspora – and their action against us may well represent the beginning of a massive clamp down of anti-Modi voices prior to the 2024 elections in India.

In our case:

First came the SLAPP lawsuit by the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) in May 2021 against our co-founders. It failed to intimidate and silence us and the case was dismissed.

Then came incessant trolling following the Dismantling Global Hindutva conference in September 2021, in which we had participated as practicing Hindus. We responded in kind and debunked the narrative that the conference was Hinduphobic.

Following the Rahul Gandhi visit to the United States in May 2023 came a shameful display of hubris and hype by a Union Minister in the Modi cabinet, claiming on national TV that there was a conspiracy among Rahul Gandhi, George Soros, and our co-founder Sunita to destroy India. That failed to gain traction and, in fact, increased our following.

And now this!! Using their pal Elon Musk to shut down the only voice of progressive Hindus, which is speaking out against the danger of Hindutva ideology and the Modi government's anti-minority actions, which run counter to the basic values of Hinduism.

Much as they try, we will not be silenced or stopped, like a river flows on in spite of boulders in the way, finding its way around. As long as people like Umar Khalid, Teesta Setalvad, Harsh Mander, Arundhati Roy, Newsclick, Amnesty India as long as brave defenders of Indian democracy are continuing to fight, we will stand with them. The resistance movement against Hindutva will grow like a tidal wave and engulf the hatred. That day will come.

This is the second freedom struggle for India. Nothing less.

We will end with a quote from a recent article by our cofounder Raju Rajagopal about Modi, Biden, and Human Rights through the lens of the Bhagavad Gita:

*“The action undertaken from delusion,
without regard to capacity and to consequences
– loss and injury to others –
that is declared to be dark [vikarma].” (XVIII-25)*

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