



To

The Chief Minister of Gujarat

3rd Floor, Swarnim Sankul-1,
New Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar 382010, Gujarat, India

Cc: Sh. M. D. Antani

Secretary (Home)
2nd Block, 2nd Floor,
Sachivalaya,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

Cc: Sh. P.C. Thakur

Director General of Police
Gujarat State Police Bhawan,
Sector- 18, Gandhinagar
Gujarat-382009

Cc: National Human Rights Commission

Block C, ManavAdhikarbhavan
GPO Complex,
INA, New Delhi 110023



8 June 2014

Dear Chief Minister,

We write to you with urgent concern for the treatment of civil rights activists Teesta Setalvad, Javed Anand and three other persons whomay face arrest after 19 June 2014.

Teesta Setalvad, Javed Anand, Tanvir Jafri, Salimbhai Sandhi and Firoz Gulzar Pathan face allegations including cheating, forgery, and criminal breach of trust in a case filed in January 2014 relating to the raising of funds for a riot memorial museum in Gulberg Society, Ahmedabad.

The Gujarat High Court has stayed their arrest in the case until 19 June 2014 following their application for pre-arrest bail. The Gujarat police have frozen the personal bank accounts of Teesta Setalvad and Javed Anand, and the accounts of two organizations – Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and the Sabrang Trust – run by them.

Amnesty International India understands that the financial accounts of both organizations have been audited and submitted to Income Tax Authorities, the Charity Commissioner, Mumbai and the Union Ministry for Home Affairs. TeestaSetalvad, JavedAnand and the three others have rebutted the allegations against them in detail in affidavits produced in court. The Boards of Citizens for Justice and Peace and the Sabrang Trust have also fully cooperated with the Gujarat police, and have made public multiple audit reports.

TeestaSetalvad and JavedAnand have been steadfastly working for justice for victims and survivors of the Gujarat riots of 2002 for several years. Their work has been instrumental in bringing about over a hundred convictions in riot-related cases since 2002. TeestaSetalvad herself has won accolades and recognition, both national and international, for her human rights activism.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was until recently Chief Minister of Gujarat, has spoken openly about the need for good governance and rule of law, and respect for the values embodied in the Constitution of India.

We are hopeful that his new government will live up to its commitment to defending rights guaranteed under the Indian constitution and international law and will protect human rights defenders like TeestaSetalvad from harassment and intimidation.

We urge the Gujarat government to:

- Respect the fair trial rights of TeestaSetalvad, JavedAnand and the three others in the case.
- Protect their constitutional rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.
- Ensure that human rights defenders in Gujarat can carry out their work without intimidation or harassment, and take action against those who violate their rights.

Sincerely,



G Ananthapadmanabhan
Chief Executive,
Amnesty International India