



December 24, 2020

To,

Mr. Ajit Mohan
Vice President
Facebook India

Email id: ajit.mohan@fb.in

Cc: Julie Duvall
Facebook Inc
ATTENTION — GRIEVANCE OFFICER
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025
USA

Email id: svc-GO-India@fb.com

Sub: CJP Complaint against serial hate offender Ragini Tiwari for her threatening video against farmer protests

Respected Sir, Ma'am,

We at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), Mumbai have come across another threatening video of Ragini Tiwari on Facebook spreading hate against the farmers who are currently agitating against the three central farm laws.

In a 2-minute-long video that has now gone viral on all social media platforms, Ragini Tiwari appealed to the masses to prepare themselves for December 17 to recreate Jafrabad (read a reference to the February 2020, Delhi Violence) if the farmers don't stop protesting and leave Delhi. She openly issued a fresh warning to the Central and Delhi Government that if the protests are not put an end to by December 16, she will take to the streets and get all roads cleared and history will repeat itself. By history, she meant the targeted Delhi Pogrom where she brazenly called for the slaughter of the Muslim community and the violence that followed led to deaths of more than 50 people.

She said in the video, "*Hum toh nipat hi lenge kisan andalon se*" (We will "deal" with the farmers protests). She is working very hard to quell the strapping voices of the farmers lamenting over them being allowed to protest during a pandemic but barring Chhath Puja in some parts of the country.

She also unsuccessfully linked the protests with Dr. Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam insinuating that the Kisan Andolan Army is conspiring to release them and trying to divide the country by demanding the creation of 'Khalistan'. Tiwari said that she is not Gandhi's monkey to close her eyes and be oblivious to reality. The videos may be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/sayedafzaalhassan/posts/170412531494815>



We, at CJP had similarly also written to the Facebook Team on March 3, 2020 against this serial hate offender Ragini Tiwari's incendiary videos and rants against minorities during the Delhi Riots in 2020. On February 23, 2020, she made a Facebook live broadcast. In the video she was seen using derogatory language including cuss-words against the Delhi police for their alleged inaction against stone-pelters. *CJP's complaint to Facebook dated March 3, 2020 is marked and annexed hereto as **Annexure A**.*

CJP, in a video, compiled all the hate filled activity of Tiwari during the riots using abusive diatribe against the minorities. The video may be viewed here:

<https://cjp.org.in/ragni-tiwari-incites-violencecjp-files-complaint-against-hate/>

She also openly screamed "*kaatdaalo*" (cut/kill them) provoking "*sanathiyoo*" ("caste" Hindus) to resort to violence against *gaddars* (traitors). On the same Facebook Live video, the self-styled Hindutva leader Ragini Tiwari alias Janki Behen, was documented saying, "*Bahut hua sanathan par vaar, ab nahi sahenge vaar. Sanathaniyo baahar aao. Maro ya maar daalo. Baad mein dekhi jayegi. Bahut hua .Ab jiska khoon na khaula, khoon na hi wo paani ha!*" (Enough attacks on Hinduism (Sanathan Dharm a term for Hinduism). We won't tolerate such attacks anymore. Hindus come out. Die or kill. Rest shall be seen later. If your blood has not boiled even now, it's not blood, it's water).

The Facebook Live that went viral on different social media platforms may be viewed here:

https://twitter.com/zoo_bear/status/1284388654077493248

Violations

Ragini Tiwari's social media activity definitely stands in contravention of **Facebook's Community Standard on Violence and Incitement**. Facebook's policy reads: "*We aim to prevent potential offline harm that may be related to content on Facebook. While we understand that people commonly express disdain or disagreement by threatening or calling for violence in non-serious ways, we remove language that incites or facilitates serious violence. We remove content, disable accounts and work with law enforcement when we believe that there is a genuine risk of physical harm or direct threats to public safety.*"

There is enough documented evidence against the undeterred Ragini Tiwari's brazen communal and discriminatory online speech that intends to mobilise people into creating a hostile environment against the aggrieved farmers and impinge on their fundamental right to protest under Article 19 of the Constitution of India.

Facebook clearly states that users are not allowed to post "*Threats that could lead to death (and other forms of high-severity violence) targeting people or places where threat is defined as any of the following: Statements of intent to commit high-severity violence.*" Ragini Tiwari's intimidating video openly directing the Government to take control of the situation or else witness the end of the ongoing farmers' protest with violence similar to that of the riots in Northeast Delhi's Jafraabad area in February, 2020, explicitly calls for potential violence.

Facebook's Community Standards on Integrity and Authenticity also provides for curbing the generation of false news. It reads: "*Reducing the spread of false news on*

Facebook is a responsibility that we take seriously. We also recognise that this is a challenging and sensitive issue. We want to help people stay informed without stifling productive public discourse. There is also a fine line between false news and satire or opinion. For these reasons, we don't remove false news from Facebook, but instead significantly reduce its distribution by showing it lower in the News Feed."

In her video, she openly calls out Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam as traitorous (Gaddar) elements when the constitutional courts have yet not convicted them of any crime. The narrative that under the garb of protests, some farmers/non farmers are trying to play divisive politics for the creation of Khalistan without any verified proof, is highly dangerous and tends to distract people from the primary point of the farmer agitation.

Social Media platforms can prove to a big bane in facilitating misinformation and hate so there is a need to strictly restrict such content. Ragini Tiwari's speech has also violated the **Indian Penal Code** like **Sections**:

153 that states, [Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot—if rioting be committed; if not committed.—Whoever malignantly, or wantonly by doing anything which is illegal, gives provocation to any person intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause the offence of rioting to be committed, shall, if the offence of rioting be committed in consequence of such provocation, be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both; and if the offence of rioting be not committed, with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.]

505(2) that states, [Statements conducing to public mischief- Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement or report containing rumour or alarming news with intent to create or promote, or which is likely to create or promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.]

Ragini Tiwari's venomous content online, calling out the farmers movement, issuing warnings to violently/forcefully clear the roads can well exacerbate the ground situation, raise the levels of tension in the area and precipitate confrontation and/or skirmishes. Her documented online tactics amidst the Delhi Violence in February 2020, that resulted in the death of 52 people and rendered hundreds injured, is reason enough to take this seriously and drive Facebook's attention. And urgent action.

The Right to Protest of the farmers is constitutionally guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d) in order to express their fears without any inhibition. In *Re-Ramlila Maidan Incident Dtvvs Home Secretary and Ors* (W.P CrI No. 122 of 2011), the Supreme Court contextualised freedom of speech and expression as the essence of a democratic system. "*There could be no expression without these rights. Liberty of thought enables liberty of expression. Attainment of the preambled liberties is eternally connected to the liberty of expression.*" Instead of upholding and supporting the cause of our massive

agricultural sector, online posts like that by Tiwari, leads to defamation and unnecessary incitement to an offence against the peaceful protestors.

While we appreciate that Facebook had taken action against some of her venomous posts that are no longer visible, we urge you to take a look at other communally charged posts on her wall. We urge Facebook to ensure that posts that are detrimental to the farmers and historically oppressed communities are dealt with strictly, with a zero-tolerance policy. We also urge Facebook to reconsider if her account should continue to operate as it is used as a medium to sell hate in light of the fragile socio-cultural environment in our country.

It is undeniable that Facebook has given a voice to many who previously lacked a platform, but it cannot allow hate to foster with impunity, especially when there could be real-life consequences for those being targeted.

Prayers:

It is prayed that Facebook take cognizance of the aforementioned violations and it is further prayed that it:

- 1) Conducts a thorough inquiry into Ragini Tiwari's account on Facebook to curb the hate activity
- 2) Suspends Ragini Tiwari's account permanently as she has been repeatedly posting hate speech and misusing the platform for her agendas that are detrimental to social harmony and public peace
- 3) Removes all offensive posts in order to prevent people from reading and sharing it further
- 4) Employ stricter means to steadfastly deal with hate speech on Facebook to avoid untoward incidents resulting out of inflammatory and inciteful content
- 5) Takes any other appropriate action that it deems fit.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anil Dharker'.

Anil Dharker, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teesta Setalvad'.

Teesta Setalvad, Secretary

Enclosed:

Annexure A CJP complaint against Ragini Tiwari dated 03.03.2020