



Date: July 22, 2021

To,

Shri Atif Rasheed

Hon'ble Vice Chairman

National Commission for Minorities

Government of India

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Subject: Complaint against Vikas Sehrawat for his anti-minority and vile statements against Muslims

Dear Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace, Mumbai, are very concerned about the recent trend of events pertaining to one Vikas Sehrawat alias Malik Sehrawat, based out of Ghaziabad, who has been spewing hate against the Muslim community. It is not one single incident but a chain of events spreading hate on a routine basis, with the support of fellow Hindu ideologues.

Vikas, who calls himself “Malik Bhai”, posted a video on his Facebook page on April 11, 2021, one day after he was released from jail on bail for uploading an incendiary video against politician Alka Lamba and calling for violence against Muslims in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In the video uploaded on April 11, 2021, he is seen abusing Aam Aadmi Party leader Amanatullah Khan and NDTV renowned journalist Ravish Kumar. He says, “Amanatulla Khan, dilli Kejriwal MLA ke liye, usko maarne ki supari mein leta hoon. Pinky Chaudhary, Ghaziabad ka apna jaat bhai hai, usne Amanatullah ka sar kaatne k liye 51 lakh ka enaam rakha hai, mujhe 5 lakh dedo mai usko maar dalunga...usko ghar se nikal kar sarr kalam nahi, usko gaayab kardenge..gayab matlab khatam kardenge..200 goli maarunga” (I will take the contract for killing Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal MLA Amanatullah Khan, I'll do it for 5 lakh rupees. I will drag him out of his house, and won't only slit his throat but make him disappear, disappear as in finish him...I will hit him with 200 bullets).

This did not stop here, he went on to abuse Amanatullah Khan further, dragging in Ravish Kumar and Muslim women. For Ravish, he said, “Wo ran** TV wala kya naam hai uska... Ravish kumar bha**a usko bhi maareng goli maareng, goli maareng, maareng kati maareng... (Prostitute of a journalist, Ravish Kumar, I will kill him too. I will shoot him, shoot him, and definitely shoot him). At the end of the video, he is also seen and heard giving rape threats to women, commenting on their body, and also asking the Indian Muslims to go to Pakistan, abusing them. He made sexual gestures and said, “Burqa kyun lehraati ho, maza hai tumhare salwar mein, maaro inki Hinduon tapatap...Hindi, Hinduon Hindustan, m** ch***** jao Musalmano, Pakistan. (Why do you wear a Burqa, the fun is in your salwar suit, Hindu men-take on the Muslim women...Indian Muslims go back to Pakistan)

Trigger warning: The video, downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 19, 2021, is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure A.

Sir, the name Pinky Chaudhary alias Bhupendra Tomar mentioned by Vikas Sehrawat is another hate offender and founder of the Hindu Raksha Dal who had claimed responsibility for the violence that took place on the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus in January 2020. In an interview given to The Print, he said, “JNU is a hub of communists and we won’t tolerate this. They abuse our religion and our country. Their attitude towards our religion is anti-national. In future, too, we will take the same action in other universities if someone tries to indulge in anti-national activities.” It is noteworthy to mention that he was also arrested in 2014 for vandalising the Aam Aadmi Party office in Kaushambi in Ghaziabad.

His hate propaganda is not limited to this incident. Very recently on July 19-20, another abusive video has come to light. He said that if someone even tries to remove one brick of their temples, they will destroy every mosque. “hum aankh nikalne ke sthithi mein, samapt karne ki sthithi mein hai, hum takatwar hai” (We are in a position to gouge someone’s eye. We are in a position to finish Muslims, we are powerful). He also appealed to all Hindus to join the temples, be close and associated with temples for their strength will increase manifold.

The article has been marked and annexed hereto as Annexure B. The video downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 22, 2021 is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure C.

Vikas was arrested and lodged in Dasna Jail, Ghaziabad on March 24, 2021 for his comments against Alka Lamba. In a video (that he uploaded around a week after his release from jail), downloaded by CJP on July 19, he is seen derogatorily calling Alka Lamba, a so-called sister of Mia Khalifa (a former porn actor). He also calls her a chinaal (a slang word used to describe women as prostitutes). In the video he also justifies his act by saying that he did not incite people to hit her or kill but just called her Mia Khalifa’s so-called sister. He also spread misinformation about her by stating that Alka Lamba is actually Alka Khwateen. He asks all his followers to spread this information to everyone. Calling himself a “Hindu ka Sher” (A Hindu Tiger), he also said that she went to Jawaharlal Nehru University to attend the anti -CAA protests and that she was also seen in Chandni Chowk buying Burqas. Going a step further with his vile and sexually explicit remarks, he said that this is what Muslim women do- they wear Burqas and sleep with Maulanas. (Yeh maualanao ke khwateen hai na, iski fitrat mein burque pehene hai aur maualano ke bistar garam karne hai).

Trigger warning: The video, downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 19, 2021, is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure D and E.

After going to jail for close to 2 weeks, he was released on bail and without showing any remorse, he uploaded videos abusing and shaming Muslims (both men and women), with unabashed impunity. That this shows the current state of affairs where legal action is taken lightly and people like Vikas Sehrawat perceive going to jail as a good deed in order to protect their “Hindu Rashtra”.

In another such video, he is seen openly issuing death threats against Muslims. He said, “humne kardiya elane-jung, maro ya maaro, ya toh Hindu ya Muslim. Sarkar ke bharose mat baitho” (We (Hindus) have declared war, either you kill or die, either Hindus’ will survive or Muslims, don’t trust the government). He thumps his chest and asks all his followers to trust him. He openly calls for a war with swords and threatens Muslims. In the same video, he asks his guru Yati Narsinghanand to trust him and not worry because Malik (Vikas) is alive and he will take care of all Muslims!

Trigger warning: The video, downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 19, 2021, is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure F.

Sir, Vikas is not a lone wolf. He follows another hate monger Yati Narsinghanand, the chief priest of the Dasna Temple who is known for his Islamophobic speeches. We would like to take the liberty to state that we had approached your esteemed authority on March 18, 2021, against Yati Narsinghanand documenting his hate speeches. In March, where a young Muslim boy Asif went to drink water inside the temple, he was brutally beaten up by two disciples of Yati. Later, Yati defended the attackers and said that he had trained his followers well to give a befitting reply to trespassers from a specific minority community, and that the attackers were just following his instructions. He was not only the sympathiser of the incident and the accused but the main perpetrator of the crime as well. The only remorse he had about the incident was that the accused shot a video of it thus bringing the incident in the public eye. Clearly, he preferred that such incidents of hooliganism should go on but should not be highlighted to garner public attention. We would like to submit that there seems to be a serial staging of brazen attacks and the putting out such justifications along is an escalating scale of absurdity

CJP complaint to National Commission for minorities dated March 18, 2021 is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure G.

Another video has been uploaded where Yati Narsinghanand can be seen praising some of his disciples, including Vikas Sehrawat who was in jail at that time, also mentioned by Yati. In the video he said, “Islam ka jihad khatam ho, uske liye hum yojna banaenge, uske liye aise aise yuva khade hue hai, aur malik Sehrawat jo jail mein bhaut jaldi jail se bahar aega, ek do dinn mein bachche ki zamaanat hojaegi, aur nayi urja ke saath woh apne kaam pe lagega”. (We will make policies to end Islam Jihad (militancy), and such youth [pointing to some well-built men including one Suresh Rajput] are standing tall to do this work. And Malik Sehrawat who is in jail will be released soon, he will get bail in 1-2 days and with new energy he will work towards eradicating Jihad). This is open intimidation by such men who enjoy immunity and believe in a particular religion to an extent that they can go to any length to make a point.

The video, downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 19, 2021, is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure H.

Very recently, probably a day before Eid, Yati gave a provocative speech and uploaded the video of the speech on Facebook. In the video, he was heard saying, “agar iss mandir ki ek bhi eet jihadiyon ne ukhadne ki sochi, toh ho sake Ghaziabad mein ek bhi masjid na bach jaaye (people screaming in support). Jo hoga dekha jaaega, koi kamzor na samjhe, humare liye jail bhi aisi hai jaise mandir”. (If a so called muslim militant tries to destroy this temple, not one single mosque will remain erect in Ghaziabad. We will see what happens, don’t think that we are cowards, jails are like temples for us). That if he draws a comparison between jail and temple, he knows that what he is saying amounts to inciting violence and hate speech. That this is a very problematic stance and he has been doing this for months, without any action against him.

The video, downloaded by CJP from Twitter on July 22, 2021 is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure I.

Suresh Rajput, as mentioned above, is another disciple of Yati and hate offender who has been documented spewing virulent hate without fear of penal action. Suresh Rajput, aka ‘Hindu Sher Boy’ (with 4.7 lakh followers on YouTube) has been seen with associate Vikas Sehrawat provoking and inspiring people to commit violence against Muslims in a video from February 2021. He calls for the hanging of all Muslims, and also abuses the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Shockingly, in the beginning of the video, when Suresh Rajput and Vikas Sehrawat can be seen abusing Muslims calling them Jihadiyo (militants), trying to incite violence, a Police officer can be seen standing there, taking no action but just listening to them.

His YouTube channel can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwrjvwE6lybanaaPlcwYIw>

Along with extremist Hindutva leader Ragini Tiwari who has booked under hate speech IPC sections by the Police, Suresh Rajput had also participated in and led a rally against ‘love jihad’ in Delhi last year, where they raised slogans like “Ka**Mullo ko goli maro (Shoot the Muslims)” and “Jab mulle kaate jayenge, tab Ram Ram chilayenge (When Muslims are killed, we will shout Ram Ram)” in the presence of the police.

The video that already has 22,182 views may be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XziZu6FAN4Q>

Violations of Indian Penal Code

There is a prominent ecosystem of Hindutva extremists to have been trying to incite communal violence in India and that attracts certain IPC provisions like:

Section 153A: “Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, or commits any act which is prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes

or communities, and which disturbs or is likely to disturb the public tranquillity, or shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

153B(1)(c): “Whoever, by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise concerning the obligation of any class of persons, by reason of their being members of any religious, racial, language or regional group or caste or community, and such assertion, counsel, plea or appeal causes disharmony or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both];

Section 295A: “whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of citizens of India by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.”

Section 298: “Whoever, with the deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person, utters any word or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that persons or places any object in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.”

Section 503: “Whoever threatens another with any injury to his person, reputation or property, or to the person or reputation of any one in whom that person is interested, with intent to cause alarm to that person, or to cause that person to do any act which he is not legally bound to do, or to omit to do any act which that person is legally entitled to do, as the means of avoiding the execution of such threat, commits criminal intimidation.”

Section 505: “Statements conducing to public mischief”.

We would like to state that CJP does not stand in the way of an individual’s belief in a particular religion for it is a constitutionally protected right under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. We would just like to bring to your esteemed authority’s attention, this close nexus of such leaders/members of Hindutva group, who have been held earlier for illegal activities, and continue to spew hate against a particular community.

This is not one isolated incident but a sequence of events that use social media platforms to spread misinformation and hate. Such discriminatory behaviour encourages hate to build up and can lead to extreme situations like genocide. The 267th Law Commission Report on Hate Speech agrees with this stance and states that:

“Hate speech has the potential of provoking individuals or society to commit acts of terrorism, genocides, ethnic cleansing etc. Such speech is considered outside the realm of protective discourse. Indisputably, offensive speech has real and devastating effects on people’s lives and risks their health and safety. It is harmful and divisive for communities and hampers social progress. If left unchecked hate speech can severely affect right to life of every individual.”

The hateful messages doing the rounds on social media pose a serious threat to the secular fabric of our country and need to be acted against at every instance so that it acts as a deterrent. If



appropriate action is taken by this Commission, it will not only give a sense of security to the minority community but will also strengthen the values of fraternity, secularism that our Constitution upholds. We, thus, strongly, urge this Commission to take action against the individuals indulging in hate speech on social media platform.

The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi had also said, “There are many religions as there are individuals; but those who are conscious of the spirit of nationality do not interfere with one another religion. If Hindus believe that India should be peopled only by Hindus, they are living in a dreamland. The Hindus, the Mahomedans, the Parsees and the Christians who have made their country are fellow countrymen and they will have to live in unity if only for their own interest. In no part of the world are one nationality and one religion synonymous terms; nor has it ever been so in India”, which was quoted by Jajmohan Reddy and Nusserwanji Vakil in the Judicial Commission Report on the Ahmedabad Riots, 1969.

Prayers:

In light of such unfortunate incidents, we at CJP, urge this Hon’ble Commission to:

- 1) Take cognisance of this complaint under section 9(d) of the National Commission for Minorities, 1992.
- 2) To direct the attendance of hate mongers Vikas Sehrawat along with others before your commission to examine such allegations under section 9(4)(a) of the Act, 1992.
- 3) To direct the DGP, Ghaziabad or any other appropriate authority to investigate the matter thoroughly, register FIRs against such blatant hate speech.
- 4) Issue directions to the Ghaziabad Police to submit Action Taken Report and give updates to this Commission regarding progress in investigation in the case
- 5) Undertake any other action as it may deem fit.

Yours sincerely,

Citizens for Justice and Peace

Nandan Maluste, CJP President

Teesta Setalvad, CJP Secretary

Annexures:

Annexure A: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021

Annexure B: ThePrint article dated January 8, 2020

Annexure C: CJP downloaded video dated July 22, 2021

Annexure D: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021



Annexure E: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021

Annexure F: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021

Annexure G: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021

Annexure H: CJP downloaded video dated July 19, 2021

Annexure I: CJP downloaded video dated July 22, 2021