

JUSTICE FOR ALL न्याय सब के लिए



National Campaign to enact the PREVENTION OF COMMUNAL AND TARGETED VIOLENCE (ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS) BILL, 2011

We ask for nothing.
We only ask for justice.
Justice for All.

Our Constitution gives us a pledge,
a promise that is 63 years old.

The promise that between citizen and citizen,
Governments and Courts shall never discriminate;
not in the name of religion or caste,
nor in the name of region, language or gender.

The promise that all citizens will be equal before the law,
that the life, liberty and property of all citizens
shall have equal protection of the law.

We ask for nothing,
we only ask that promises not be betrayed.

What happens to that promise
when we are massacred by the thousand,
women are gang-raped,
our property is burnt, looted or destroyed,
places of worship are desecrated;
with the complicity of
the Police and the State?

Who are we?

We are the dispossessed Pandits from the Kashmir valley,
We are Hindu fishermen from Marad,
We are Muslims from Nellie, Bhagalpur, Bhiwandi, Bombay, Gujarat,
We are Sikhs from Delhi, Kanpur, Kashmir,
We are Christians from MP, Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka,
We are Dalits from Kherlanji, Ramabai Nagar, countrywide,
We are Adivasis from everywhere.

Sometimes

We are Biharis in Maharashtra,
We are Tamilians in Karnataka.

We are women across communities,
who are the worst victims of carnages,
Always.

We ask for nothing.
We only ask for justice.
Justice for All.

We ask for a new law so that
the 63-year-old promise is kept.

We ask for a new law so that
hatemongers will no longer enjoy
the protection of the Police and Governments,
and will instead be prosecuted and punished.

We want a new law so that
the guilty are punished, swiftly and severely,
whoever and however powerful they may be,
and the policemen who fail to do their duty
are punished too,
so that the survivors get justice in good time.

We want a new law so that
those in command, in positions of power,
are held accountable for what they did,
or did not do,
to ensure that those under their charge
performed their duties diligently.

We want a new law so that
compensation to survivors of mass crimes
is both substantial and swift.

We want a new law which accepts
that no amount of compensation is in itself enough;
which ordains that the State shall ensure
that the survivors are fully rehabilitated,
their dignity and self-respect restored.

We ask for nothing,
we only ask that the promise be kept.

We ask that a Bill be placed before Parliament;
For a new law that honours the 63-year-old promise
and ensures that there is no more betrayal.

We shall no longer be silent.

We ask for nothing.
We only ask for justice.
Justice for All.

- Javed Anand

- Nearly 10,000 Muslims, Sikh, Christians, Dalits and Adivasis killed or maimed in carnages in the last 30 years. The lives of a much larger number of innocents were ravaged.
- During the Gujarat Genocide, 2002 alone, property worth Rs 4,500 crores destroyed; around 500 places of worship and cultural heritage damaged or desecrated.
- Over 3,00,000 Kashmiri Pandits forced to move out of the Kashmir Valley in 1989.
- The draft Bill proposes Rs 15 lakh as compensation for deaths in such carnages. It also proposes that compensation and reparation be linked to the price index.