



NEW SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

Dated: 19th November, 2003.

To,

The Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Protest against the absolutely unbridled and unabashed utterances of Shri Pravin Togadiya provoking communal passions and disparaging remarks against Human Rights activists.

Honourable Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayji,

As you are aware the State of Gujarat has gone through the most pathetic period of its history last year and is still suffering from the past agonies. At this delicate and crucial juncture of the State's history, the effort of all peace loving, democratic and nationalist Indians should be to maintain communal harmony at all cost in this state and reach justice to those who have suffered in the riots of 2002. This duty is perhaps more on the important public figures whose utterances influence the masses.

Unfortunately however, the International Secretary of VHP, Shri Pravin Togadiya never loses any opportunity to make highly communally provocative speeches and his sermons to the relatives of the victims of the Godhra S6 coach burning (published in "SANDESH", a local Gujarati Newspaper, Ahmedabad Edition, dated 17th November, 2003, page5) was once again extremely provocative and his remarks against the Human Rights activists, Ms Teesta Setalvad was most disparaging and defamatory.

Shri Togadiya has been reported to have said that large amounts of money is flowing in from Muslims States of the Arab countries to get the killers of the Hindu Ramvaktas freed and the wife of a muslim youth Javed, Teesta Setalvad, who is on a visit to Ahmedabad, has become the medium of such activities. He also said that Teesta Setalvad , who after marrying a Muslim is on a visit to Ahmedabad and she is conspiring to take away the BEST Bakery case outside Gujarat such that the Hindu witness are not able to attend the trial etc...

The above remarks of Shri Togadiya are reprehensible and goes against the very foundation of our constitutional values of peace, justice and secularism. Millions of people of Gujarat do not share this venomous attitude of Shri Togadiya but are afraid to protest because of the threat perception. We, on behalf of all such peace loving people of Gujarat would like to record our strongest protest against such utterances and we would urge you to uphold the Raj Dharma of the Prime Minister. Restrain Shri Togadiya from dividing the people and our beloved country before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

Amrish Patel,
General Secretary, NSM.