



ALL INDIA FORUM FOR RIGHT TO EDUCATION

अखिल भारत शिक्षा अधिकार मंच

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सबको शिक्षा एक समान, मांग रहा है हिंदोस्तान!

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Writer & Civil Liberties Activist,
Senior Professor, Goa Institute of
Management

Prof. Zhatsu Terhuja, Nagaland
Formerly Dept. of Education, Patkai
Christain College, Dimapur

Dated: 03/04/2020

To,
The Chief Justice of India
New Delhi.

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Stopping the Arrest of Prof. Anand Teltumbde on 6th April 2020.

Dear Sir,

The All India Forum for the Right to Education (AIFRTE), a platform of more than 80 organizations of teachers, students, and educational and civil rights activists drawn from more than twenty-two states across the country, has been constrained to appeal for your intervention in a matter which we believe to be deeply distressing and unfortunate in a constitutional democracy.

A highly respected and honoured member of the Presidium of our organization, Prof. Anand Teltumbde, has been targeted and humiliated over the past year and a half in what appears to be an ideologically and politically motivated case. Like him, we had also believed that this insensitive and tactless attempt to silence a powerful academic voice that has often unsettled those whom he has critically exposed, would find justice in a system that is committed to freedom of speech and to respect for the rights and liberties of individuals.

However, we are totally shocked to find that this leading academic and top-ranking management executive, totally committed to peaceful, democratic methods of expressing dissent, is now threatened with incarceration without trial for a possibly indefinite period under the draconian UAPA. A bench of the Supreme Court has seen fit to deny him anticipatory bail as demanded by the NIA to whom the case was suddenly shifted recently, despite his complete and continuing co-operation in the matter due to

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शिक्षा नहीं कोई कारोबार, है यह जनता का अधिकार

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which he had so far been protected from arrest by the Maharashtra High Court. He has now been ordered to surrender by 6th April 2020.

The case against Prof. Teltumbde is based on totally flimsy grounds which can scarcely be considered as 'evidence', a fact that would be easily exposed if it were brought to trial. However, that is precisely what is being denied. Hence we are forced to recall in his defence his academic stature and his widely-recognized leading contribution to the development of the IT sector and the Oil and Gas sector in India.*

We are also forced to state that he belongs to the family of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, one of the foremost leaders of our country to whom we owe the strength and Republican character of the Constitution of modern India. It is a sad commentary on the fate of our people when the husband of Dr. Ambedkar's grand-daughter is faced with incarceration without trial for upholding his principled views in a democratic country.

Further, under the present circumstances when the CoVid-19 virus is a world-wide threat and India is in a state of complete lockdown, when convicted prisoners are being released and given parole on health grounds, it is incomprehensible that Prof. Teltumbde should be required to surrender. Even if all the factors noted above are sought to be ignored in denying him anticipatory bail, surely even in today's India, humanitarian considerations must prevail and Prof. Anand Teltumbde should not only be kept out of prison but the flimsy case against him should be dropped.

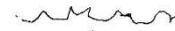
With this letter, We are also submitting AIFRTE's online petition and more than 1000 signatures of endorsements to our appeal addressed to your office for dropping charges against Prof. Anand Teltumbde and stopping his impending arrest on 6th April 2020.

We appeal to you to use your good offices to ensure that a terrible wrong is not done to an honest but courageous and principled academician.

With thanks and regards.



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*Some Important Online Sources About Prof. Anand Teltumbde:

Journal Article: “Don't Pity Anand Teltumbde, Pity the System that Incarcerates Him”:

https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Fthewire.in%2Frights%2Fanand-teltumbde-arrest&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFv-dAHZDIa_sHxVuyDGBJ0bVRVGA

Professional Profile:

<http://aifрте.in/sites/default/files/AIFRTE%20docs/Anand%27s%20Professional%20Profile.doc>

Social Profile:

<http://aifрте.in/sites/default/files/AIFRTE%20docs/Who%20is%20Anand%20Teltumbde.docx>

Enclosures:

1. Online Petition at Change.org on the Subject: “An appeal to drop charges against Prof Anand Teltumbde”: <http://chnг.it/KFFdSbbL6t>
2. Signature Sheet on the above-mentioned online petition.

Copy to:

- (1) Prime Minister of India
- (2) Ministry of Home Affairs, GoI