

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi - 110001
India
Email: amitshah.mp@sansad.nic.in

Dear Union Home Minister,

Since 2018, Indian authorities have arrested **16 activists** under a draconian anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the **Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad** case.

The BK16 activists include poets, journalists, lawyers, professors, artists, and a Jesuit priest, who have been charged under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and draconian UAPA, which has been abused to detain people for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association.

Indian authorities must drop all charges against the 16 activists and immediately release the 12 who remain in detention; Pending their release, ensure that they are granted prompt, regular, and unrestricted access to medical care and other basic necessities; immediately stop the use of repressive legislation to clampdown on human rights defenders; Repeal or substantially amend the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Your Sincerely,

CC: Indian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Vinay Kwatra
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Washington DC 20008
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