

Premierminister
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister's Office
South Block, Raisina Hill
New Delhi-110011
INDIEN

Dear Prime Minister,

Sudha Bharadwaj, Shoma Sen, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Arun Ferreira, Sudhir Dhawale, Vernon Gonsalves and Varavara Ra were arrested in 2018 and charged under India's draconian counter-terrorism law UAPA. The police claim the nine were involved in the violence that erupted between Dalits and Hindu nationalists in Maharashtra. However, Amnesty International believes that these arrests are politically motivated actions that are aimed at chilling peaceful dissent in the country.

I therefore urge you to immediately release the nine activists from jail. Please also ensure that activists, human rights defenders, journalists, academics and members of the political opposition are able to peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association.

Yours sincerely,

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