

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
New Delhi.

19.07.2010

Respected Dr Singh

SUB: Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010

People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) congratulates you for passing The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 in the Lok Sabha. It is an initiative that generates hope among millions of victims of torture. It also fulfills India's commitment to the world.

However, we think that the bill is far short of its expected form, and has undermined the hopes of the millions of victims of true. We think, this bill is designed to protect the public servants who inflict torture. It has also remained silent on the psychological trauma suffered by the victims and ignored the right to rehabilitation for the torture victims. This sends wrong messages to the poor already suffering in its fight against the perpetrator due to delaying judicial process and the nexus between perpetrator and the public servant. The governments both at the centre and state have enough laws to protect its own man, who will protect the majority of the poor people of this country?

Sir, PVCHR's partner Danish organization Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims(RCT) has analyzed compatibility between The Prevention of Torture Bill in its present form and UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). It has also proposed the desirables to be included in the present bill for making it more human and protects the right to life with dignity of 'aam aadmi.

Thanking you again for your Government's initiative.

Yours sincerely,

DR LENIN RAGHUVANSHI
Executive Director, PVCHR

DR MOHANLAL PANDA
Advisor, PVCHR

23.07.2010

Hon'ble Member of Parliament
New Delhi

Respected Madam/Sir

SUB: Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010

People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) congratulates you and your party for passing The Prevention of Torture Bill, 2010 in the lower house of the Parliament during the Monsoon session, 2010. This also testifies your commitment for the right to live in dignity for the common man. This bill has generated some hope among the dalits, tribals and other marginalized and poorer sections of the society including women and children who are victims of torture at the hand of the state or due to the nexus between state and private perpetrators.

The sense of victimhood coupled with denial of justice always alienates people from the process of nation building. Recently, a study has projected the number of torture cases in India per year at 1.3 million. The present bill will empower the victims.

However, among the prominent omissions in the bill are (1) It attempts to protect the public servant who are accused of committing torture, (2) Psychological torture must be included in the definition of torture and (3) The victims of torture must have Right to Rehabilitation.

Madam/Sir, PVCHR with research support from Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims RCT has analysed compatibility between The Prevention of Torture Bill in its present form and UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). It has also proposed the desirables to be included in the present bill for making it more human and used for protecting the right to life with dignity of your countryman.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

DR LENIN RAGHUVANSHI
Executive Director, PVCHR

DR MOHANLAL PANDA
Advisor, PVCHR