

# ELAMARAM KAREEM

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

LEADER

CPI(M) Group in Rajya Sabha



सत्यमेव जयते

Member :

- Standing Committee on Labour
- Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises

01-02-2022

To

Shri. Narendra Modi,  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

Dear Shri. Narendra Modi ji,

We wish to express our deep concern at the media and cyber-forensic expert reports indicating that Indian citizens have been attacked with illegal cyber weapons. These attacks include not only spying but also fabrication and planting of evidence. Senior writers, activists and lawyers have now been in jail for over three years in the Elgar Parishad/Bhima Koregaon case on the basis of "incriminating documents." Internationally renowned experts have shown that these documents were remotely planted on their computers via the Netwire malware and have been attacked by Pegasus. Recently, the New York Times has confirmed that the government of India purchased the Pegasus spyware system using public money as part of a 2 billion dollar deal with Israeli defence firms. Thus the use of these cyber weapons has included allegations of both surveillance and clandestine planting of incriminating documents. This raises extremely serious concerns about what these cyber weapons mean for the national security of India and for the fundamental rights of Indians. In the Elgar Parishad case the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has relied on the overly broad provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to oppose bail while delaying going to trial for years, as well as staunchly opposing the attempts of the accused to ask for a court enquiry into the use of cyber weapons against them.

Given the revelations regarding cyber-attacks and the planting of evidence in the Bhima Koregaon case, it is only fair and just that the activists arrested under UAPA in the Bhima Koregaon case should at least be granted bail. However, the NIA under the directions of your Government have been opposing bail. We urge you to take immediate remedial measures to address this blatant injustice pending withdrawal of the cases against them.

Thanking You,

Yours Faithfully,

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