

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh  
South Block, Raisana Hill  
New Delhi  
INDIA

April 2008

Honourable Prime Minister,

**Stop Atrocities on Women, Tribals and Minorities**

We write with grave concern for the tribals and religious sisters who were brutally attacked by a mob of men and women while participating in a womens day program on 15 March 2008 at Sahangoti Village, Raigad District, Maharashtra. The program was conducted at the request and with permission of the local Collector.

Ms Vaishali Patil, a local tribal activist and state awardee for her work with tribal women intervened to ensure that the attackers were duly punished and the crime registered under the relevant sections of the Prevention against Atrocities Act. While upholding rights of tribals and women, however she was suprisingly framed under the same Act for allegedly verbally abusing a tribal.

We strongly request your government to take serious note of the abovementioned situation and direct the concerned authorities to:

- Withdraw the false charges of verbal abuse against Ms. Vaishali Patil.
- Investigate and charge all the men and women, who attacked the nuns and tribal women attending the program on 15 March 2008.
- Apply the relevant sections of Prevention of Atrocities Act on the real perpetrators responsible for this attack.
- Provide adequate protection to the sisters and tribal women whose lives are in danger due to intimidation from the fundamentalist leaders and followers.

Thank you for your kind attention and we look forward to your favourable attention to the matter.

Yours faithfully,

[SIGNATORIES OF THIS LETTER BELOW]



CC:

1. Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh  
Chief Minister of Maharashtra  
Office of the Chief Minister  
Mantralaya Mumbai 400032,  
Maharashtra,  
INDIA

2. Mr. R.R. Patil  
Honourable Home Minister  
Government of Maharashtra  
Mantralaya, Mumbai,  
INDIA

3. Justice S. Rajendra Babu  
The Chairperson  
National Human Rights Commission  
Faridkot House, Copernicus Marg,  
New Delhi-110001,  
INDIA

4. Diplomatic representatives of India in my country.