

November 27, 2013

Sir,

I am writing to you in a moment still filled with the devastation and human catastrophe of Muzaffarnagar riots that were caused by rumour and sustained by constant false propaganda.

Lives, limbs, honour and property have been destroyed on a large scale, all for political ends. Thousands of internal refugees are languishing in camps in Muzaffarnagar and neighbouring districts.

Most of the victims cannot go back to their homes because there are no homes left worth living in. It is feared that if they live in the camps longer they may be deprived of their lands as well.

The state has failed them. It has failed to protect their lives, limbs and property. A consultative meeting of lawyers and rights activists, chaired by the former Chief Justice of India, Justice A.M. Ahmadi, at the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) on November 20, was of the opinion that the Muzaffarnagar riots could have been averted, or its impact minimised, if the Communal Violence Bill had been in place in the form of law.

The following participated at the meet: Justice A.M. Ahmadi, former chief justice of India, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, advocate, Supreme Court, Prof. Afzal Wani, Professor of Law, GGS IP University, Delhi, Mr. M.U. Siddiqui, Deputy Secretary (Home) Retd., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Salehi of Jamat Ahl-e-Hadis and Dr. Eqbal Husain, Professor of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia. They assigned me to make a request to you on their behalf, on behalf of the IOS and on my own personal behalf to kindly facilitate the passage of the Bill in the Winter Session of Parliament. If it is not done expeditiously, it might as well be placed in cold storage by the time the next Parliament comes.

On the fears about the possible dilution of the federal structure, Justice Ahmadi says that the Constitution guarantees that no such eventuality comes to pass. He says that the Constitution has provided safeguards against the misuse of Central authority, and that these safeguards cannot be wished away.

The Institute of Objective Studies, headquartered in Delhi, is a 27-year old research and advocacy NGO in consultative status with the United Nations (Social Roster).

You are requested to kindly help in passing a meaningful, effective piece of legislation in the coming session of Parliament.

Such a law is essential for the maintenance of peace and national integration to ultimately contribute to a prosperous, developed India.

As you very well know, the country cannot progress in an environment of communal carnage, fear and anxiety. With this we hope that you will provide your valuable support to the passage of the Bill.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dr. M. Manzoor Alam)
Chairman