

TELANGANA JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

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To
Hon'ble Governor
Andhra Pradesh State
Hyderabad.

Dear Sir,

We are very thankful for giving your valuable time to meet us to discuss the current situation in Telangana. In addition to our discussions we would like to submit this letter on behalf the Joint Action Committee (JAC) which is representing the broad spectrum of all the social, political and economic sections of the Telangana people. We are absolutely certain that the entire population of 40 million of the Telangana will agree with the content of this letter. Therefore, we request you to initiate measures so that people of Telangana can peacefully express their democratic aspirations once again on 30th September 2012.

As you are aware, the people of Telangana are struggling for separate Statehood for this region for about 50 years in order to get their judicious share of political power to use the resources of this region for their economic growth and prosperity. Today, the entire Telangana population, regardless of their political, social and economic differences would like to live with self respect and prosper in their own State making use of their own resources. The demand for Telangana State is wide across the spectrum.

Considering the ground realities and the current political situation, the Government of India, which has the responsibility to uphold the Constitution and respect the aspirations of the people, has taken a clear decision to establish the Telangana State. Announcement for initiating the process of establishing the Telangana State was also made by the then Hon'ble Home

Minister Mr. Chidambaram on the 9th December, 2009; and, it was also reiterated on the floor of the Parliament, the highest decision making body of the country, empowered to take such decisions.

Telangana people are going to march in Millions to remind the Government that they need to take specific actions to complete the process of establishing the Telangana state announced three years ago. The march on 30th September is going to be historic and the entire 40 million Telangana people are going to participate in several ways to express their democratic right in peaceful.

We are earnestly making a specific request to you to make everything possible under your authority to instruct the Government machinery to cooperate and not to resort to violence and illegal methods to stop this Great Telangana March. As we desire to conduct the March peacefully, we have the following very specific points of concern to report to you and request you for appropriate actions.

1. State Government might resort to very oppressive and illegal measures such as arrest and harassment of leaders, students and commoners well before 30th September in the name of preventive custody. This is being done many a time essentially to create large scale fear and intimidation among the Telangana people and prevent them in actively expressing their democratic desire in a peaceful way.
2. There are rumours, which we hope to be only rumours, that some powerful lobby groups are planning to engage anti-social elements and bring them into the city to create confusion, intimidation and violence. They are the very lobby groups which are preventing the formation Telangana State. These are the groups which have money, power and support from some Andhra media and also some connections to the State machinery at a high level.
3. As happened during the Million March, the Government might resort to erecting unprecedented road blocks in Hyderabad city which are usually

seen in countries under Military dictatorships in preventing any democratic movement of people in the city.

4. There could be attempts to create communal tensions by certain anti-social elements hired by the Lobby groups which are preventing the Telangana state.

As you are well aware of vast majority of Telangana people would like to live in their own State. But they are denied this democratic choice and the struggle is going on for several decades. In the last three years, after the announcement of the 9th December 2009, more than 1000 youth have committed suicide. Their suicide notes graphically and clearly mentioned that they resorted to that step with disillusionment for the inaction of the Government. Many of them named specially about the 9th December announcement. This is sad and it should not happen in a highly democratic country like India. We appealed to the youth and held counselling classes. We did everything possible within our means; but, these youth are resorting to this as a form of protest. We would like to bring to your kind notice that, the entire Arab spring, which is now sweeping the middle-east has been ignited by one suicide. Mohamed Bouazizi a Tunisian, a small trader, self immolated on the 17th of December 2010. That had led to the ousting of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on 14th January 2011. Just 28 days were enough to raise the collective consciousness of the Tunisian people. President had fled to South Arabia. Even after more than 1000 suicides, which are still continuing, our collective consciousness of the democratic India has not resulted in a spirit to fulfil its own promise to establish the Telangana State. An entire decade was filled with intense movement, several committees, several deadlines, and finally the announcement in the Parliament! This is not good for India, which claims itself as the largest democracy in the world.

The Telangana people overwhelmingly think that there is no other alternative for the Government of India except to start the process of establishing the Telangana State. Establishing the Telangana State, as announced on the

floor of the Parliament, is the only choice for a peaceful and democratic functioning and it would enhance the dignity of the Government and the Congress Party. The State of Andhra Pradesh is already a nonexistent phenomenon. The political parties are vertically split on the regional lines. Before it is too late and the situation becomes unwieldy, it is wise, on the part of any elected government, to take the appropriate action.

Coming to our declared action on the 30th September 2012 for Telangana March! This March will be historic in every way; large number of people will directly participate and the rest of the Telangana people will observe it from their native places. We assure you that it would be peaceful and would be completely democratic. All the political parties of Telangana are going to participate in it and all the sections of the Civil society of Telangana are preparing to express their view in their own method on that day. On behalf of the Telangana people and on our own behalf, we would like to make a special appeal to you to give attention to the following aspects.

1. As Governor of the State, please protect the democratic rights of the people of Telangana. Their right to march on 30th is constitutionally guaranteed. People have every right to protest peacefully to express their democratic right.
2. Instruct the State Government
 - a) not to resort to oppressive measures such as preventive arrests, erecting wire fences in the city etc. as they will actually be counterproductive;
 - b) take measures to prevent lobby groups from creating tensions in the city; and,
 - c) not to treat this march as law and order situation and provoke people at large on or before 30th March.

We are aware of the conduct of the UN Conference in the city, on the Biological Diversity. We are proud of this city and we welcome such a prestigious event. We will do every thing possible and every thing required for

the Conference to be conducted as scheduled. We will be happy to assist in any way possible to see that this Conference is a great success.

We quote Mr. Chidambaram's written statement as Home Minister which he circulated after speaking at the All Party Meeting on Telangana on the 5th of January 2010, almost two and half years ago:

"I wish to caution all the political parties that there are forces waiting on the wings who ridicule the parliamentary form of democracy and who would be happy if we collectively fail to find answers to the issues that concern us, and we should not give any room for these forces to gain strength or credence."

The proposed March on 30th September is to express the democratic faith of Telangana people to request the Government to start the process as it announced on the floor of the Parliament. People losing faith in the democratic system is dangerous to the very existence of democracy; because democracy is about people having trust on the Government they have elected enthusiastically.

The Government of India cannot continue to postpone this decision to form the State just to appease the small lobby groups who indulged in several illegal activities to grab wealth exploiting the resources of the people and manipulating governing processes. They are going to the extent of manipulating even the decision making power which is the prerogative of the highest authority. With this money power and media ownership they are trying to subvert the healthy democratic process norms. If this continues further, what Mr. Chidambaram said may be a reality in Telangana; and that is what all of us should strive to avoid. That is possible only by establishing a separate State for Telangana. We lost faith in the Government of Andhra Pradesh, which has become a tool in protecting the interests of the small group of lobbyists at the cost of the people of Telangana and Andhra.

Finally, we sincerely appeal to you to do, as the Governor of the State, whatever is possible to uphold the Constitution in protecting the democratic rights of the Telangana people to carry on their March on 30th September peacefully.

Yours sincerely,

K. Swamy Goud,
Convenor, TJAC

Prof. M. Kodanda Ram
Chairman, TJAC.

G. Devi Prasad,
President, TNGO

V.Srinivas Goud,
President, Telangana Gazetted
Officers Association

C. Vittal,
President, Telangana Udyogula
Sangam

Addanki Dayakar
President, Mala Mahanaadu

Rasamai Balakishan
President, Telangana Dhoom Dham
Cultural Forum