



PRESS RELEASE

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**Absolutely reprehensible and cowardly attack on theorist, writer and activist for
Dalit rights professor Kancha Ilaiah is another attempt to stifle Democracy.**

**Strangling the voices of Free Thinkers, Rationalists and Rationalists have
become a 'New Normal' in Shri Modi's 'New India'**

**No Democracy can tolerate open death threats and killing of its Journalists and
Activists, sadly the ruling dispensation is silently encouraging that trend.**

Indignity & Atrocities on Dalits under BJP's Watch have risen Manifold.

**A Mindset to Persecute & Prosecute Dalits and Unthinkable Crimes against them
have shaken the nation's conscience.**

Noted writer and political thinker, Professor Kancha Ilaiah's vehicle was pelted with shoes and stones at Ambedkar Centre in Parakal town, Waranga on 24th September. Earlier, a TDP MP, T.G. Venkatesh had issued a 'fatwa' against Shri Ilaiah, where he announced that he would 'kill Shri Ilaiah or hang him in the streets'. **Coming from a sitting Member of Parliament and an ally of the BJP- this kind of death threat against a fellow citizen, not only deserves strongest condemnation but is a clear cut criminal offence under Section 307 of IPC.**

Can a Parliament member, who issues a Fatwa against a citizen—that too a globally known writer and thinker—continue in the responsible position of an MP? It's a question that ruling BJP & TDP must answer.

Issuing of a 'Talibani Fatwa' by members of ruling dispensation with overt and covert support of the establishment is a dangerous trend in our polity. An unprecedented atmosphere of 'hate and intolerance' is being created to stifle the voice of those holding divergent views.

Be it the blood curdling assassination of noted activist and journalist, Gauri Lankesh or the broad daylight murders of rationalists- Dabholkar, Pansare & Kalburgi – a definite pattern has emerged, whereby lumpen elements having



proximity to the ruling Government, take law in their own hands and physically assault those who do not agree with a certain ideology. The series of killings of rationalists, free thinkers and journalists has created an atmosphere that dissent, differences and divergence of views can endanger one's life. This disturbing trend cannot be and should not be tolerated.

“If you do not agree with us, we shall kill you” is the new slogan of ‘New India’. Muzzling the voice of ordinary citizens and the lynch mob mentality has become a regular habit of this “New India/ Achhe Din” Government”

Why are the BJP, TDP, TRS and their allies providing encouragement and tacit support to such lumpen MP's, who threaten a noted professor and activist with such brazenness?

The Indian National Congress demands that the TRS Government in Telangana should register an FIR against TDP MP, T.G. Venaktesh and order an enquiry into the attack and intimidation of Professor Kancha Ilaiah.

If TDP Chief and Andhra CM, Shri N Chandrababu Naidu has an iota of responsibility towards the law and the Constitution, he should immediately sack this MP belonging to his party.

The BJP, which flaunts a mask of being the messiah of Dalits and Backwards, is maintaining a conspiratorial silence on the entire issue.

The Congress party questions the PM and BJP President, Shri Amit Shah to come forward, condemn this incident and direct action against the TDP MP.