

## **PRESS RELEASE**

November 24, 2017

**Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge, AICC Communications has issued the following statement to the press today:-**

Justice S.N. Dhingra Commission of Inquiry and its report submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 have been used as a political tool for malicious witch hunt by BJP Government. A cloud of predetermined animosity and a 'fixed match' syndrome has marred the constitution of the Commission, proceedings of the Commission, apparent bias and illegalities committed by the Commission in not summoning the persons or giving them opportunity to examine witnesses and defend themselves against whom a finding of guilt was proposed to be returned as mandated by Section 8B and Section 8C of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 and finally the perfunctory report submitted by the Commission.

**During this entire web of conspiracy, Congress Party had pointed out that 'conduct' of Justice S.N. Dhingra has raised a serious question on his neutrality, lack of prejudice and bias as also a serious compromise on his 'capacity' to head the Commission or furnish a report.**

**Clinching evidence including 'court orders' now reflect that position of Justice S.N. Dhingra to head the Commission of Inquiry stood compromised totally, rendering him ineligible. Justice S.N. Dhingra Commission's report, therefore, needs to be rejected in toto and has been rendered nugatory on account of a compromise on the conduct and capacity of the Hon'ble Judge. A few facts may be noted:-**

1. Justice S.N. Dhingra had compromised his position as an independent and neutral player by accepting favours from Government of Haryana for a trust headed by him, including accepting gift of land for this trust from a private individual. Following may be noted:-
  - (i) Justice Dhingra heads Gopal Singh Charitable Trust based in Niti Bagh, New Delhi. A private individual in Gurgaon had proceeded to gift a chunk of land to this trust leaving aside a few thousand trusts operating in Haryana including many such trusts and NGOs located in Gurgaon. A valid question arises qua the reasons, persuasion and circumstances for such a gift to a trust headed by Justice Dhingra in Delhi.
  - (ii) Justice Dhingra then wrote to Government of Haryana on 08.12.2015 asking for construction of a cement concrete paver blocks road for connecting the land so gifted to the trust out of the funds of public exchequer of Haryana. Government of Haryana also acted with alarming speed and sanctioned the road on the same day i.e. 08.12.2015. Shri Manohar Lal Khattar even proceeded to sanction a sum of Rs.95,40,000/- for this road. As against this, claims of villagers in the surrounding area seeking construction of a number of roads for decades have been completely ignored.

2. During the continuation of Commission of Inquiry, Justice S.N. Dhingra was appointed as an observer incharge of a private company i.e. The Printers House Private Limited on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016. Following may be noted:-
- (i) Justice S.N. Dhingra continued to draw remuneration both from Government of Haryana as also from The Printers House Private Limited. Did he seek consent of the subsequent appointment and availing of second remuneration from Government of Haryana?
  - (ii) During his appointment as an observer of The Printers House Private Limited, Justice S.N. Dhingra transferred funds to the tune of Rs.8,88,000/- and Rs.6,66,000/- to a company i.e. Cinnamon Trails LLP, an entity in which his daughter, Ms Bharti Dhingra is a designated partner.
  - (iii) During his appointment as an observer of The Printers House Private Limited, Justice S.N. Dhingra availed International and domestic travel facilities and hotel expenses for himself and his wife for Myanmar and Hyderabad. Justice S.N. Dhingra also sought further International travel facilities for himself, his wife and daughter for Sri Lanka and on objections by Jagdeep Singh, Vice-President of the Company, Justice Dhingra proceeded to terminate his services. A copy of the letter dated 17.07.2017 written by Shri Jagdeep Singh to Justice S.N. Dhingra to this effect is annexed as **Annexure A-1**.
  - (iv) Entire matter was placed before a Division Bench of Delhi High Court, which sought a report from the observer i.e. Justice S.N. Dhingra and expressed serious displeasure, besides staying incurring of any further expenditure from the accounts of the company as also prohibiting Justice S.N. Dhingra from making any investments, directly or indirectly, by him from the funds of the Company and directed that the Single Judge should decide the issue of termination of Jagdeep Singh by Justice S.N. Dhingra based on the objections raised by Jagdeep Singh regarding misuse of the funds by Justice S.N. Dhingra. A copy of the order of the Division Bench is attached as **Annexure A-2**.
  - (v) Matter was then placed before the Single Judge of Delhi High Court. Vide order dated 25.08.2017, the Single Bench proceeded to stay the order of termination of Jagdeep Singh after taking note of the fact that Justice S.N. Dhingra had transferred funds of the Company i.e. The Printers House Private Limited to a company headed by his own daughter, besides seeking benefits from the Company qua his International and domestic trips. A copy of this order dated 25.08.2017 is also attached as **Annexure A-3**.

**Ceaser's wife must be above suspicion. Justice S.N. Dhingra, whom we deeply respect, has compromised his position as also neutrality. In light of the unequivocal facts brought out above, the report dated 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2016 needs to be rejected in toto.** We urge upon Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar to follow the 'raj dharma' and give the necessary answers in public domain after rejecting the report of Justice S.N. Dhingra, besides tendering a public apology for the apparent malice and witch hunt.

