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ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE

24, AKBAR ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 011

01 June 2015

Sonia Gandhi
President


Dear Prime Minister,

I want to bring to your attention the distressing rise in the incidence of atrocities against Dalits across the country. In Nagaur district of Rajasthan, 17 Dalits were mowed down by a tractor by members of another community over a longstanding land dispute. 4 Dalits have died while another is critical. Three months earlier, 3 Dalits were burned alive in the same district. Rajasthan is not isolated State; other States have witnessed brutal assaults on Dalits such as the shocking instance of a Dalit youth being murdered in Shirdi, Maharashtra – a stone's throw away from the local police station – for having an Ambedkar ring-tone on his mobile phone.

It is important for the ends of justice to ensure that a fair and impartial inquiry is conducted in these cases and the guilty are punished as per law. However, it is equally important to ensure that the institutional machinery charged with the welfare and protection of Dalits is strengthened and made accountable so that all Dalits are able to access justice as a matter of right. It is with this intention that the UPA-2 Government brought in the SC/ST [Prevention of Atrocities] Amendment Ordinance 2014, which among other things sought to strengthen the implementation of the SCs and STs [Prevention of Atrocities] Act, 1989. It is a matter of disappointment that NDA government allowed the Ordinance to lapse by sending it to the Standing Committee. Even though the Standing Committee submitted its report in December 2014, Government did not bring it to the Parliament for passage in the budget session.

I therefore urge you to bring the Bill for passage in the upcoming Monsoon Session.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,


Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
7, Race Course Road
New Delhi