

Rajinder Sachar

A Staunch Supporter of Democratic Rights

The passing away of Justice Rajinder Sachar on 29th April 2018 was deeply mourned by all those who stand up for the democratic rights of the people.

In his earlier years, Rajinder Sachar was a political activist, a trade unionist and socialist throughout his life. Later he became a lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court. He was made a judge of Delhi High Court in 1970. He retired as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in 1985.

Justice Sachar took a strong stand against the violation of democratic rights without a fear or favour. He stood up against the 'Emergency' imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975 as well as the Supreme Court's legitimisation of its imposition.

Justice Sachar ordered the police to file FIRs on the leaders who participated in 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom in Delhi. Later these cases were taken away from his bench. He strongly condemned the communal violence in 1993-94 after demolition of Babri Masjid and massacre of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002.

After retirement, he was elected as the President of Peoples Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) and continued in that position until 1995.

He was well known for the thoroughly researched 2006 Sachar committee Report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India. As a socialist he opposed US imperialist invasion of Iraq and other acts of intervention.

The CPI (ML) pays homage to Rajinder Sachar as the staunch supporter of democratic rights of the people.