

## **Condemn the arrest of activists and intellectuals**

*The serial raids across the country on the homes of activists and intellectuals who are critical of the government and the ruling party at the Centre is an attempt to trample the democratic rights. The arrests of Sudha Bharadwaj, Vernon Gonsalves, Gautam Navlakha, Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira and others, are nothing but an attempt by the government to strike terror among those who are struggling for the rights of the people. This is also an attempt by the BJP to invent a false enemy and engage in scaremongering in order to polarise the 2019 elections in its favour. Terms like “urban naxals” are invented in order to stifle any criticism of the government.*

*The arrests should be seen in continuation with the recent attacks on pro-justice voices such as Swami Agnivesh, Umar Khalid and many other student activists. A BJP lawmaker from Karnataka even advocated the murder of “intellectuals.” Both the arrests and the physical attacks on justice loving people must be seen in a series of attempts to stifle dissent and deny social justice.*

*The CPI (ML) demands immediate release of the arrested individuals, dropping of all false and malicious charges, as these arrests are politically motivated and unjustified.*

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