

UAPA is a Political Tool, Says Kappan

Roughly 28 months after being arrested on charges under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan walked out of the Lucknow district jail on Thursday morning. After being released on bail, Mr. Kappan expressed his full faith in the judicial process and pleaded innocence while terming the UAPA a political tool.

“I have full faith in the judicial process, the truth will come out,” he said.

Mr. Kappan, 43, was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police while he was travelling to Hathras, where a Dalit woman died after allegedly being raped.

Mr. Kappan said he had gone to Hathras while performing his journalistic duties. “I have been a journalist for the past 11 years in New Delhi. I had gone to do reporting in Hathras, which was my duty,” he said. “These are dark times not only for the press freedom but also for Indian democracy.”

Under the rule of exploitative and autocratic ruling classes between 2014 and 2020, 10,552 people were arrested under UAPA. Many are still languishing in jail. Stan Swamy was arrested under UAPA and passed away at the age of 84 in police custody in July 2021. At that time, he was suffering with Parkinson’s disease, so he applied for bail in the High Court, but it was rejected. Recently in Aug 2022 Pandu Narote died in the police custody he also arrested under UAPA. Many died in prison under the rule of exploitative ruling classes. These deaths were the government murders.

We may call it autocratic or fascistic rule.