

URGENT
13th June 2023

To,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,
Supreme Court of India,
Tilak Marg, New Delhi – 110001
supremecourt@nic.in
011-23386178 (Secretary General)

The Honble Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
Nainital, Uttarakhand
highcourt-ua@nic.in
FAX: 05942-237721, 05942-231692

**URGENT APPEAL FOR PREVENTION OF
COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN UTTARAKHAND**

**SUB: Proposed 'Mahapanchayat' on 15 June 2023 against Muslims in
Uttarakhand in the name of protection of "DaveBhumi".**

Respected Sir,

1. This is to bring to your kind notice that a 'mahapanchayat' is scheduled to be held on June 15, amid continued communal tension, in Purola, Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. If the Mahapanchayat is allowed to happen, it could lead to a boil in communal tensions in the State. Muslim traders are reportedly being warned to leave Purola town before the Mahapanchayat takes place. Posters threatening Muslim traders to shut shops and leave the state by June 15 have recently surfaced. Due to the tension and threats, Muslim residents have already shut their shops and some families have migrated from the district. In fact, there is a facebook post that states that the State Administration would not ask the traders to keep the shops open. This could be a precursor to a large scale violence.



2. There are confirmed reports that there is internal displacement as Muslims as fleeing their houses. The Constitution guarantees the right to reside anywhere in Article 19 of the Constitution.

3. On May 29, a major rally was taken out in Purola by right-wing bodies demanding that Muslims leave the town. In videos of the rally that subsequently went viral, mobs can be seen attacking Muslim-owned shops, despite the presence of the police. Posters warning Muslim traders of 'dire consequences' were pasted on shopfronts. The posters were undersigned by a group called the 'Devbhoomi Raksha Abhiyan'. A protest was again held on June 3, under the banner of Yamuna Ghati Hindu Jagriti Sangathan, in which hundreds of people took part. This harassment is not just limited to Purola Town. In the nearby Barkot, shutters of shops owned by Muslims have been reportedly marked with a black cross.



Swami Darshan Bharti

10h · 🌐

अद्वितीय आमंत्रण

देवभूमि उत्तराखंड पुरोला उत्तरकाशी महापंचायत !

15 जून 2023 , पुरोला, उत्तराखंड

बहिनों, बेटियों, पूर्वजों की महान सनातन धरोहर की रक्षा के लिये सनातन संस्कृति में विश्वास करने वाले सभी हिन्दू संगठन, हिन्दू योद्धा , साधु संत 15 जून को पुरोला में महापंचायत में पहुंचें। अपने धर्म का कर्तव्य निर्वहन शांतिपूर्ण करें,

जय बट्टी विशाल हर हर महादेव, जय श्री राम

जय सनातन धर्म

जय देव भूमि वासियों

आयोजक:

प्रधान संगठन पुरोला, क्षेत्र पंचायत संगठन
सामाजिक संगठन और क्षेत्र जनप्रतिनिधि

निवेदक:

देवभूमि रक्षा अभियान
(स्वामी दर्शन भारती)

👍👍 171

47 comments · 92 shares



Like

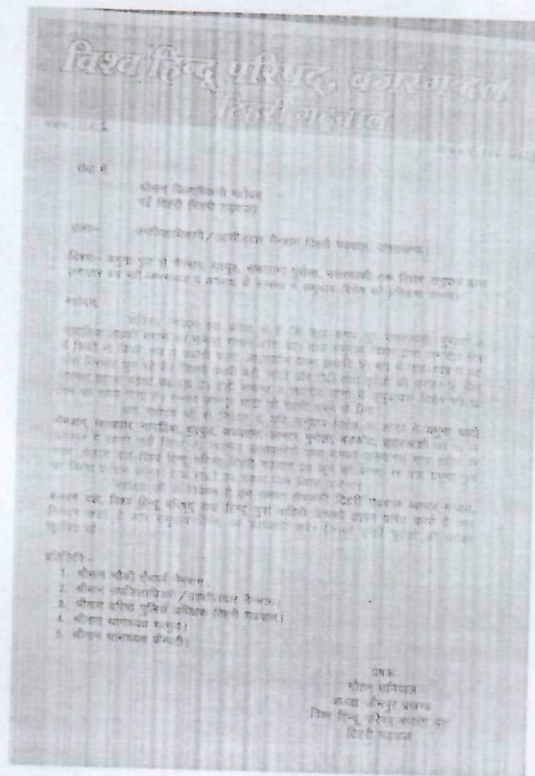


Comment



Share

4. Ultimatums have also been issued Besides the 15 June Mahapanchayat threat indicated on the posters pasted on Muslim-run shops. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has written a letter to the Tehri Garhwal District Administration giving an ultimatum to Muslims who are euphemistically referred to as the "particular community" in the letter, stating that 10 days' worth of time has been given to them to leave from many mentioned belts of Uttarakhand. The VHP, in its letter, wrote that if this doesn't happen, then they along with the Hindu Yuva Vahini and Traders' Union of Tehri Garhwal will block the highway on 20 June in protest.



5. These aforementioned events are in the context of widespread or systematic hate speeches directed against minority religious groups in the recent past, which have created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation. On the 17th & 19th of December 2021, at two separate events organized in Delhi (by the Hindu Yuva Vahini) and Haridwar (by Yati Narsinghanand), hate speeches calling for the genocide of Muslims in order to achieve ethnic cleansing, were openly made in flagrant violation of the law. It was the intervention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court which forced the state administration to act against the organizers of the aforesaid event. The threat of holding a Mahapanchayat on 15 June is part of a series of such similar events that have taken place in the past.
6. Indeed, the events in Uttarkashi are illustrative of the State Government's failure to follow the guidelines in *Tehseen Poonawala v. Union of India*, (2018) 9 SCC 501. These guidelines, *inter alia*, provided for "preventive measures" to be undertaken

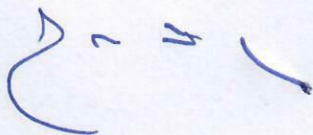
by the State Governments to prevent precisely the events currently unfolding in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. The guidelines state:

"40.1. The State Governments shall designate a senior police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police, as nodal officer in each district. Such Nodal Officer shall be assisted by one of the DSP rank officers in the district for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching. They shall constitute a special task force so as to procure intelligence reports about the people who are likely to commit such crimes or who are involved in spreading hate speeches, provocative statements and fake news."

"40.10. It shall be the duty of the Central Government as well as the State Governments to take steps to curb and stop dissemination of irresponsible and explosive messages, videos and other material on various social media platforms which have a tendency to incite mob violence and lynching of any kind"

7. Thus, urgent judicial intervention is required to protect the life, limb, and property of those under attack and against whom the Mahapanchayat has been scheduled to be held on the 15th of June.
8. Under these circumstances, I am writing to your Lordship hoping for prompt action in your capacity as the head of the judiciary to take immediate action to prevent the Mahapanchayat from taking place on 15 June 2023. It is also respectfully urged that directions may be issued to the State Government of Uttarakhand to take the necessary steps to protect the lives of those under threat. Further, those who have been forced to leave their shops and homes should be provided compensation and rehabilitated with the adequate protection. It is respectfully submitted that such events are an anathema to the rule of law and cannot be countenanced in a parliamentary democracy. They threaten the very secular fabric which binds the country together.

Yours truly,



ASHOK VATPEYI
ABDOLVANAND