



# COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MAOIST)

## Central Committee

### Press Release

20 August, 2022

## **Condemn the release of life convicts in Bilkis Bano's case of Gujarat riots!**

### **Oppose Saffronisation of the state machinery!**

The Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) condemns the yet another misuse of the state machinery now in Bilkis Bano's case of the Gujarat riots of 2002. It appeals to all the democrats, progressive minded persons, patriots and the people of the country to raise voice against the spreading saffronisation of the state machinery that is worsening the situation of fundamental rights of the citizens.

The Gujarat state government released the life convicts in Bilkis Bano's case of the notorious Gujarat riots of 2002 well known to the citizens of India on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Bilkis Bano was sexually assaulted when she was 5-month pregnant, her 3-year-old daughter killed in front of her eyes and 14 of her family were murdered out of which the bodies of 6 were not found. She filed a petition in the court for justice and the convicts were given life sentence by a CBI special court in 2008. The remission was an answer to the mercy petitions of the convicts to the Supreme Court which directed the Gujarat state government to enquire the petitions. The government appointed a committee and acted upon its recommendation to give remission to the convicts.

The situation of the minorities and oppressed people and nationalities and sections is like what Bilkis Bano said in a statement reacting to the decision. 'The release of these convicts has taken from me my peace and shaken my faith in justice'. These convicts are none else but members of RSS-VHP-Bajrang Dal and the Modi-Shah clique is keen on releasing since they themselves are a part of these Hindutva institutions. Ramesh Chandana, one of the released convicts said, 'As long as the Gujarat CID was looking into it, the probe was going well'. This statement clearly shows how the government manipulates the judiciary and reveals the fascist state of affairs in the country under the rule of Brahmanic Hindutva Fascist BJP for which Gujarat was a model.

Rana Ayyub, the journalist who made a sting operation into the riots and wrote a book 'Gujarat Files' is being harassed through judiciary with a money laundering case. The police officers Srikumar and Bhatt and social activist Teesta Seetalwad of Gujarat who stood on behalf of the Muslim minorities in the riots were arrested once again on the day of the judgment in the Zafri case related to the riots. Film maker Avinash Das of Mumbai was arrested and foisted with a case for sharing a photo of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah with the arrested IAS officer Pooja Singhal. It is clear that the fascist Narendra Modi-Amit Shah clique is misutilising the state machinery to root out any dissent towards their rule and facilitate their way to come to power once again in the coming General elections.

These developments show the stark reality of saffronisation spreading in all sectors. The CC appeals to all the oppressed people, nationalities and sections, revolutionary, democratic, human rights organisations of the country to step forward with much more fervor to oppose the dangerous trend and raise their efforts to save the country.

**Abhay**  
**Spokesperson**  
**Central Committee**