

Dated: May 3, 2020

Sh. Anil Baijal
Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Delhi
Raj Bhawan
New Delhi
Respected Sh. Baijal

As you may be aware that the Delhi Police has initiated a criminal proceeding this week against Dr Zafarul Islam Khan, Chairman, Delhi Minorities Commission under Sections 124-A & 153-A IPC for tweeting his views against acts of hardcore elements in the society.

2- IMPAR completely disapproves certain parts of the statement of Sh. Khan. IMPAR completely disagrees mentioning or invoking of any kind of support for Indian Muslims from any foreign country whether Arab or otherwise. We believe Indian democracy, our institutions and our citizens are sufficient to help Indian Muslims secure their legitimate rights on equal terms. IMPAR believes the followers of different faiths have lived together peacefully for thousands of years in this country with great respect and understanding and any differences, the communities and our systems are well placed to address themselves.

3- We however agree that the provisions in the FIR slapped are unjustified. You may have read the tweet of Dr Zafar ul Islam. There is nothing in this tweet to imply any attempt to bring into hatred or contempt or excite any disaffection towards any government established by law in India . As such, there is no violation of any provisions of Sec 124-A IPC. Again, there is nothing in the tweet to imply any attempt to promote disharmony or feelings of enmity or hatred or ill-will between different religious groups. Thus, filing a proceeding against Dr Zafar ul Islam under Sec 153-A IPC is also without any sound basis in law or the facts.

4- The action of Delhi police becomes more questionable when one recalls its laxity in not proceeding against certain political leaders and others, who indulged in issuing patently provocative and inciting statements for violence against members of Muslim community. There is growing feeling in a section of the community that Dr. Zafarul Islam has been targeted for his fearless advocacy of Constitutional values & fundamental rights of equality of all citizens irrespective of religion , race, caste , sex , place of birth & the right to profess , practice & propagate any religion guaranteed under Art 14, 15, 16, 21, 25 , 29 & 30 etc of our Constitution

7- Our country has already suffered in its image as a secular democracy due to illegal and uncalled for statements and twits of irresponsible elements both in and outside the country.

8- Unsubstantiated charges brought against Dr Zafar ul Islam will further dent the image of the country perceived as regressing into a banana republic where rights activists , intellectuals & promoters of constitutional democracy are hauled up to gag them

9- Such unfair actions have a long term adverse effect on the psyche of a large population of marginalised communities especially Indian Muslims as their faith in institutions of governance weakens . That is a dangerous trend which may affect the unity & integrity of the nation & solidarity among citizens

10 - Putting Muslim leadership of caliber & integrity & citizens under state or societal pressure also results in promoting ghetto mentality thus blocking the process of internal reform in the Muslim community .

We will be grateful if keeping in view above averments , Delhi administration withdraws or abates the criminal proceedings against Dr Zafar ul Islam on priority

Issued by IMPAR Steering Committee Members

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We hope Sir, that you will intervene on the side of justice and ensure the release of all the young people arrested under draconian provisions of the law during these weeks.

Thanking you and with regards

Dr. MJ Khan

Convener and Central Committee Member-IMPAR

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About IMPAR - Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms

Promoted by 270 plus most prominent Muslims from different walks of life, IMPAR is a national forum, which aims to work in making a meaningful difference to the community's engagement with the society and the nation. IMPAR is mobilizing the voice of progressive and modern Muslims to collectively express their constructive views to the media and the nation. IMPAR also aims to working on promoting education and awareness, national ethos and shared culture, rationale thinking and scientific temperament, reforms and positivity in the community towards maximizing social and economic access and opportunities. Like Mahatma Gandhi said, let's be the change that we wish to see in the world. IMPAR is committed to bring about a positive change in the community and to meaningfully contribute to the social and economic development of the nation.

Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms

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