

Sender:

His Excellence
President Ram Nath Kovind
c/o Embassy of India
Tiergartenstraße 17
10785 Berlin

Date: _____

Dear Excellence,

the 83-year-old catholic priest from India, Stan Lourdusamy, known as Father Stan Swamy, has been in jail since October 8, 2020 on fabricated charges. Please do all in your power which will lead to the release of the Jesuit priest, who suffers from Parkinson's disease. He is accused of holding speeches containing insurgent content at a rally with around 35,000 participants in Bhima Koregaon near the city of Pune (state of Maharashtra) on December 31, 2017. In addition, he is accused of supporting Maoist terrorists.

In contrast, at an event on New Year's Day in 2018, where violent clashes between Hindu nationalists and Dalits claimed the life of one person and left three others severely injured, nobody was faced with charges. However, human rights activists, including Father Swamy, became detained on questionable grounds.

Father Swamy's activist work is particularly dedicated to the human rights of the Adivasi and Dalit in the north-eastern Jharkhand state. Human rights, which are enshrined in the Indian constitution. Unfortunately, especially in rural regions, equality is still not a tangible reality for the people.

Thru his role as Priest and with all his devotion Father Swamy tried to protect these people from e.g. government harassment or land expropriation.

Sincerely