

social Centre, known as Bagaicha, which continues to work for the rights of tribal people in central India through research studies, documentation, training and establishing solidarity with tribal movements. Among others, he founded the Persecuted Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PPSC), which documented, studied and published the fabricated cases filed against thousands of tribals languishing in jails. All of them were accused of links with Maoists, although they had opposed mainly the land grabbing by mining companies and other corporates. Based on the findings, he filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Ranchi High Court demanding speedy disposal of the cases. Today, Fr. Stan is accused of the same case of links with Maoists, as those tribal leaders.

The case of Fr. Stan Swamy SJ and the human rights defenders has provoked a great mobilization throughout India. At the international level, numerous church personalities and international organizations have spoken out on the issue. Please find hereto the letter from the President of the Jesuit Conference of Asia, and the [statement](#) issued by the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat of the Society of Jesus. Furthermore, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, has declared in her [press release](#) of October 20, 2020 that: "most recently, the 83-year-old Catholic priest, Fr. Stan Swamy SJ, a veteran activist involved in the defense of the rights of marginalized groups, was arrested and remains in detention, despite his delicate state of health".

We know of the European Union's strong commitment to democracy and to safeguarding the fundamental rights of individuals. We also know of the strong ties of the European Union with India. We are aware of the great work of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights for safeguarding human rights and human rights defenders worldwide.

We therefore ask you to address the deteriorating situation in India and the situation of human rights defenders and:

- **Intercede with the Indian authorities, at the highest level, for the immediate release of Father Stan Swamy based on humanitarian grounds.**
- **Should you consider it appropriate, issue a resolution highlighting the deteriorating situation of democracy in India and asking for the safeguarding of rights of law-abiding citizens and human rights defenders.**

We would like to thank you for your attention and the steps and initiatives you can take. Our office will contact you for further information and follow up. Further information can also be found in the Jesuit conference of South Asia [website](#). Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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