

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To

All the Zonal/Divisional/Regional/State Units,

Dear Comrades,

DR ANAND TELTUMBDE SEEKS SUPPORT OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES

Dr Anand Teltumbde is a towering intellectual of our times. He is a great Dalit Scholar and hails from the family of Dr. B.R.Ambedkar having married his grand-daughter. Dr Teltumbde is a graduate of Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) and a former Professor of Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. At present he is with the Goa Institute of Management. He worked as the Executive Director of Bharat Petroleum and later as the Managing Director of Petronet, both public sector undertakings.

Dr. Teltumbde is an internationally renowned scholar. He advocates for the rights of dalits and other weaker sections of Indian society. He is the longest-standing columnist at the Economic and Political Weekly (one of India's best-known internationally acclaimed social science journals), General Secretary of the Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights (CPDR), and presidium member of the All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE). Dr. Teltumbde is a prolific writer, with twenty-six books (in English and Marathi) and research articles on data analytics, cybernetics, caste-class and public policy issues. His most recent publications include Republic of Caste and the co-edited anthology The Radical in Ambedkar: Critical Reflections by Penguin Random House. His writings have been translated into several Indian languages. The Insurance Worker has the proud privilege of reproducing some of his articles.

In a telling comment on the subverting of democracy Dr Anand Teltumbde has appealed the democratic and progressive forces for support. The Pune Police has filed an FIR against him for inciting violence in Bima Koregaon incident in 2017 which was organised by Elgar Parishad under the leadership of retired Supreme Court Judge B.P.Sawant. The police allege that he is a member of the CPI (Maoist) and vaguely point out that he is a part of the group conspiring to kill the Prime Minister. These accusations are laughable and have no merit. The Pune Police is invoking the dreaded Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against him. The Pune Police arrested him in the early hours of 3rd February 2019 despite a Supreme Court Order that gave him protection from arrest till 11th February. The Pune Court where he was produced ordered for his immediate release saying that the arrest is illegal and amounts to contempt of the Supreme Court.

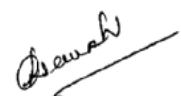
Dr. Teltumbde has clarified that he was not a part of the Elgar Parishad and was not even in Pune when the event celebrating the victory of Mahar Army unit over the Marathas was held. In fact he says he was critical of the event. Dr Teltumbde says that he is never associated with the CPI (Maoist) which is a banned organisation. It is becoming increasingly clear that he is being targeted by a vindictive government for speaking on behalf of the marginalised sections. Anand Teltumbde is a strong advocate of annihilation of the caste as desired by Dr Ambedkar. He has been critical of neo-liberalism which is further marginalising the Dalits and the working class. He holds firm belief that the true emancipation of the working class and the Dalits lie in the integration of the class and caste struggles. Therefore, a neoliberal regime which is against the working class and wants entrenchment of caste for political gains is not kind to the views of Teltumbde. We have seen that a number of social activists and those who speak in favour of the marginalised are attempted to be silenced through the coercive machinery of the State.

It is a happy sign that a large number of academics, students, intellectuals and organisations have come forward to express solidarity with Dr Anand Teltumbde both from India and abroad. The students and staff of IIT Mumbai, IIT Kharagpur, IIM Ahmedabad, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi University, Hyderabad University, Bharathidasan University, West Bengal University and great personalities like Noam Chomsky have come out in support of Dr Teltumbde.

The Secretariat of AIEA which met at Hyderabad on 26-27 January 2019 took note of the attacks on democracy and constitutional value. It expressed concern over the attacks on those who express opinion different from that of the government. The Secretariat said that we are living in a chilling situation where dissent is treated as treason. The Secretariat unanimously decided to respond positively to the appeal for support by Dr Teltumbde. The Secretariat said that it is the duty of all democratic and progressive forces to stand with Dr. Anand Teltumbde by extending full support and solidarity to him. The Secretariat demanded that the Pune Police should drop the fabricated charges against him and the government must stop targeting organisations and individuals who speak in favour of the marginalised.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.