

**AN OPEN LETTER SEEKING INVESTIGATION INTO THE MALICIOUS
CAMPAIGN OF CALUMNY AGAINST SOLDIERS OF THE MUSLIM
FAITH IN THE INDIAN ARMED FORCES**

21 October 2020

We are a group of former civil servants of the All India and Central Services, who have worked for decades with Central and State Governments in the course of our careers. As a group, we have no affiliation with any political party but believe in the credo of impartiality, neutrality and commitment to the Indian Constitution. We continue to uphold the oath of allegiance to our Constitution we took when we entered service.

We are deeply disturbed to note the malicious campaign of calumny against soldiers of the Muslim faith in the armed forces of India which has caused distinguished Veterans of our armed forces to petition the Hon'ble President of India, who is also the Supreme Commander of our armed forces, seeking redress. The contents of the letter have been widely publicized and a sample is noted below:

<https://thewire.in/communalism/muslim-regiment-armed-forces-veterans-open-letter-president>

The letter from the Veterans points out that there was no such Muslim regiment in the first place. It forcefully establishes that the charges of dereliction of duty or disloyalty laid against Muslim troops in false social media posts, which have been named, have no basis whatsoever. We support the requests of the Veterans, namely: 1. Investigate the antecedents of individuals who have made 'Muslim Regiment' post. 2. Identify & charge individuals who have made the post, for anti-national activities. 3. Issue warning to Facebook & Twitter who have enabled these posts. 4. Issue instructions to all state governments that generation of such false & seditious messages in social media should be acted upon with alacrity.

While assaults against the dignity of our Muslim citizens, as indeed physical assaults, are becoming commonplace, this particular theme which casts doubts on the loyalty of Muslim soldiers has wider implications which could have serious repercussions on our security and on fields of battle. At a time, particularly, when India is facing grave external threats, attempts to divide the armed forces could well be termed acts of treason.

We, the undersigned, would therefore urge that our armed forces as also the Government of India take cognizance of these fake news and issue suitable statements to negate the efforts to sully the image of our forces and our country. As the Veterans have significantly pointed out, "the public assumes that it is the truth, especially when there is no official action against the perpetrators."

We further demand that appropriate investigative agencies be urgently tasked to thoroughly investigate and determine whether elements that have been pursuing a hate cum

polarising agenda in the country are deliberately propagating this fake news with a view to causing divisions in our armed forces, weakening our national resolve and security.

SATYAMEVA JAYATE

(91 signatories, as below)

1.	Salahuddin Ahmad	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan
2.	Shafi Alam	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General, National Crime Records Bureau, GoI
3.	S.P. Ambrose	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping & Transport, GoI
4.	Anand Arni	R&AW (Retd.)	Former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, GoI
5.	Gopalan Balagopal	IAS (Retd.)	Former Special Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
6.	Chandrashekhar Balakrishnan	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Coal, GoI
7.	T.K. Banerji	IAS (Retd.)	Former Member, Union Public Service Commission
8.	Sharad Behar	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
9.	Aurobindo Behera	IAS (Retd.)	Former Member, Board of Revenue, Govt. of Odisha
10.	Pradip Bhattacharya	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Development & Planning and Administrative Training Institute, Govt. of West Bengal
11.	Sundar Burra	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra
12.	Rachel Chatterjee	IAS (Retd.)	Former Special Chief Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
13.	Kalyani Chaudhuri	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
14.	Anna Dani	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra

15.	Vibha Puri Das	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GoI
16.	P.R. Dasgupta	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairman, Food Corporation of India, GoI
17.	Nareshwar Dayal	IFS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
18.	Pradeep K. Deb	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Deptt. Of Sports, GoI
19.	Nitin Desai	IES (Retd.)	Former Secretary and Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, GoI
20.	Keshav Desiraju	IAS (Retd.)	Former Health Secretary, GoI
21.	M.G. Devasahayam	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Govt. of Haryana
22.	Sushil Dubey	IFS (Retd.)	Former Ambassador to Sweden
23.	A.S. Dulat	IPS (Retd.)	Former OSD on Kashmir, Prime Minister's Office, GoI
24.	Prabhu Ghate	IAS (Retd.)	Former Addl. Director General, Department of Tourism, GoI
25.	Gourisankar Ghosh	IAS (Retd.)	Former Mission Director, National Drinking Water Mission, GoI
26.	Suresh K. Goel	IFS (Retd.)	Former Director General, Indian Council of Cultural Relations, GoI
27.	S. Gopal	IPS (Retd.)	Former Special Secretary, GoI
28.	S.K. Guha	IAS (Retd.)	Former Joint Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development, GoI
29.	H.S. Gujral	IFoS (Retd.)	Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of Punjab
30.	Meena Gupta	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI
31.	Ravi Vira Gupta	IAS (Retd.)	Former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India
32.	Siraj Hussain	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Department of Agriculture, GoI

33.	Kamal Jaswal	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Department of Information Technology, GoI
34.	Najeeb Jung	IAS (Retd.)	Former Lieutenant Governor, Delhi
35.	Rahul Khullar	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
36.	K. John Koshy	IAS (Retd.)	Former State Chief Information Commissioner, West Bengal
37.	Ajai Kumar	IFoS(Retd.)	Former Director, Ministry of Agriculture, GoI
38.	Brijesh Kumar	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Department of Information Technology, GoI
39.	P.K. Lahiri	IAS (Retd.)	Former Executive Director, Asian Development Bank
40.	Aloke B. Lal	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General (Prosecution), Govt. of Uttarakhand
41.	Subodh Lal	IPoS (Resigned)	Former Deputy Director General, Ministry of Communications, GoI
42.	B.B. Mahajan	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Deptt. of Food, GoI
43.	Harsh Mander	IAS (Retd.)	Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
44.	Amitabh Mathur	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director, Aviation Research Centre and Former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, GoI
45.	Lalit Mathur	IAS (Retd.)	Former Director General, National Institute of Rural Development, GoI
46.	Aditi Mehta	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Rajasthan
47.	Sonalini Mirchandani	IFS (Resigned)	GoI
48.	Noor Mohammad	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of India
49.	Avinash Mohananey	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police, Govt. of Sikkim

50.	Deb Mukharji	IFS (Retd.)	Former High Commissioner to Bangladesh and former Ambassador to Nepal
51.	Shiv Shankar Mukherjee	IFS (Retd.)	Former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom
52.	Pranab S. Mukhopadhyay	IAS (Retd.)	Former Director, Institute of Port Management, GoI
53.	Nagalsamy	IA&AS (Retd.)	Former Principal Accountant General, Tamil Nadu & Kerala
54.	P.G.J. Nampoothiri	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police, Govt. of Gujarat
55.	P. Joy Oommen	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Chhattisgarh
56.	Amitabha Pande	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Inter-State Council, GoI
57.	Mira Pande	IAS (Retd.)	Former State Election Commissioner, West Bengal
58.	Alok Perti	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Coal, GoI
59.	R. Poornalingam	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, GoI
60.	N.K. Raghupathy	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairman, Staff Selection Commission, GoI
61.	V.P. Raja	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairman, Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission
62.	K. Sujatha Rao	IAS (Retd.)	Former Health Secretary, GoI
63.	Satwant Reddy	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, GoI
64.	Vijaya Latha Reddy	IFS (Retd.)	Former Deputy National Security Adviser, GoI
65.	Julio Ribeiro	IPS (Retd.)	Former Adviser to Governor of Punjab & former Ambassador to Romania
66.	Aruna Roy	IAS (Resigned)	

67.	A.K. Samanta	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police (Intelligence), Govt. of West Bengal
68.	Deepak Sanan	IAS (Retd.)	Former Principal Adviser (AR) to Chief Minister, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh
69.	G. Sankaran	IC&CES (Retd.)	Former President, Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal
70.	Shyam Saran	IFS (Retd.)	Former Foreign Secretary and Former Chairman, National Security Advisory Board
71.	S. Satyabhama	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairperson, National Seeds Corporation, GoI
72.	N.C. Saxena	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Planning Commission, GoI
73.	Ardhendu Sen	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of West Bengal
74.	Abhijit Sengupta	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI
75.	Aftab Seth	IFS (Retd.)	Former Ambassador to Japan
76.	Ajay Shankar	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion
77.	Ashok Kumar Sharma	IFoS (Retd.)	Former MD, State Forest Development Corporation, Govt. of Gujarat
78.	Ashok Kumar Sharma	IFS (Retd.)	Former Ambassador to Finland and Estonia
79.	Navrekha Sharma	IFS (Retd.)	Former Ambassador to Indonesia
80.	Pravesh Sharma	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
81.	Raju Sharma	IAS (Retd.)	Former Member, Board of Revenue, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
82.	Rashmi Shukla Sharma	IAS (Retd.)	Former Additional Chief Secretary, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
83.	Sujatha Singh	IFS (Retd.)	Former Foreign Secretary, GoI

84.	Tirlochan Singh	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, National Commission for Minorities, GoI
85.	Jawhar Sircar	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GoI, & former CEO, Prasar Bharati
86.	Narendra Sisodia	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary, Ministry of Finance, GoI
87.	P.S.S. Thomas	IAS (Retd.)	Former Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission
88.	Geetha Thoopal	IRAS (Retd.)	Former General Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata
89.	Hindal Tyabji	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chief Secretary rank, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
90.	Ashok Vajpeyi	IAS (Retd.)	Former Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi
91.	Ramani Venkatesan	IAS (Retd.)	Former Director General, YASHADA, Govt. of Maharashtra