

October 25, 2010

Dear Shri Chidambaram,

Our three organizations namely, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Foundation for Restoration of National Values, have been campaigning for a reform of the police laws in the country in conformity with the directions of the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh's case and the essential provisions of the Model Police Act, 2006 (MPA) drafted by the Soli Sorabjee Committee constituted by your Ministry. Hence, we are greatly encouraged by your address to the Director Generals of Police on August 24, 2010, stressing the need for transparency in police recruitment and affirming your commitment to bringing about comprehensive changes in the organizational, functional and accountability structures of the police through new laws based on the MPA. Your intervention in the Lok Sabha debate on amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code on August 12, 2010 was equally significant. Deploing the reticence of the States in adopting the MPA, you had signalled your intention to press them for enacting new police laws based on the proposals of the Soli Sorabjee Committee.

It is in the fitness of things that under your stewardship, the Ministry of Home Affairs should take the lead in this exercise by reforming the law governing the policing in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. We are also gratified to see that instead of persisting with piecemeal amendments, your Ministry has opted to enact a comprehensive new law for the Delhi Police. Our organizations have been advocating this approach, pursuant to which we had handed over our formulation of a new Delhi Police Bill to the Union Home Secretary on May 7, 2010.

We are happy to see that the Draft Bill prepared by your Ministry reflects some of the propositions contained in our draft. However, some vital concerns subsist and we shall shortly convey them to you along with our suggestions and recommendations. As active stakeholders, we shall be happy to work closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs in giving a final shape to the Delhi Police Bill, 2010, which we hope, will serve as a benchmark for a contemporaneous police law capable of meeting the needs of policing in a modernizing, pluralistic democracy.

We also hope that your Ministry will continue with the excellent practice of holding broad-based public consultations on the new Delhi Police Bill.

With best regards,



Vikram Lal  
President,  
Common Cause



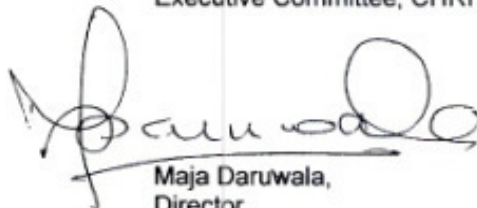
B.G. Verghese  
Chairman,  
Executive Committee, CHRI



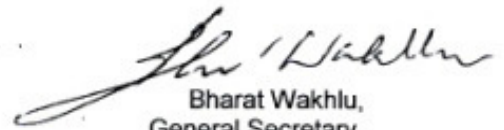
E. Sreedharan  
President,  
FRNV



K.K. Jaswal  
Director,  
Common Cause



Maja Daruwala,  
Director,  
CHRI



Bharat Wakhlu,  
General Secretary,  
FRNV