

ALL ROUND CONDEMNATION OF ARREST OF HARI PRASAD FOR EXPOSING THE VULNERABILITIES OF INDIAN EVMs

There is widespread condemnation of arrest of Hari Prasad for exposing the vulnerabilities of electronic voting machines (EVMs). It happens only in India!! Here is what different people have said about the draconian ways of the ECI.

This is a shameful and cowardly act of Election Commission of India. Any hopes that the new Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Quraishi would bring in a refreshing change were dashed by this act. To what purpose the ECI is pursuing this path is not known. In a country where the Police and to some extent even Judiciary is alleged to be used for political purposes, is this act another an example of ECI toeing to their political bosses at the cost of the welfare of their country?

As Prof. Alex Halderman and others distinguished security experts urged the deputy commissioner of ECI Mr. Alok Shukla at the recently held Usenix Conference at Washington DC, USA, we urge the ECI to stop pursuing this path and engage in a dialogue that helps the country to hold a fair and transparent election process that enjoys confidence of all parties involved.

Satya Dosapati
Save Indian Democracy, New Jersey

I condemn the move to arrest Mr Hari Prasad when all that he was trying to do was in the public interest. It is hitlerism at its worst. I urge all the political parties to take up with the Election Commission. I propose to do the same.

Omesh Saigal, IAS (Rtd.)

I condemn the action of the ECI. Evidently, ECI has no sensitivity to public interest. ECI has all the while conducted itself in a highly non-transparent manner, which shows its intentions. I hope that this will escalate the debate to a higher political level. Unless this is done, India's democratic system will be at risk.

E.A.S.Sarma, IAS (Rtd.)

Dear All, this is draconian, to say the least. ECI, with this action, has actually admitted defeat. I am prepared to do whatever required to defend Hari Prasad..

Mohandas, Kochi

This is the most atrocious act by the govt. In the recent times and all our Support and Good wishes are with Hari

Raghuveer Sakuru

ECI has once again proved beyond doubts that we are living in a camouflaged Aristocracy rather than Democracy; it's pathetic to see the most supreme body of India to resort to such a heinous act.

Arunkumar Kankipati, co-petitioner in PIL on EVMs in Supreme court of India

It is time to demonstrate in Washington D.C and New York before Indian consulate. We have to bring this to mass attention, as this scam didn't go to the public attention. In a country where terrorists are let go scot free, corruption is so rampant, it's heinous to arrest Hari Prasad. Arresting Hari Prasad is illegal.

Vinay Kumar, Technologist, U.S

This move shows how desperate Election Commission of India is. They lacked transparency from day one. This reminds me like Watergate cover up. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: You can fool some of the people all the time , and all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time.

Hari prasad, we are all proud of you for refusing the bail. We are with you all the way whatever it takes. This is the mark of a leader. The end of tyrannical regime is coming near.

Prasad Yalamanchi, Activist, Chicago

Lokmanya Tilak had said "Freedom is my Birthright". Hari Prasad ji should likewise tell the judge that transparent and verifiable elections are the birthright of every Indian.

Sameer Jalnapurkar, Pune

The news of Mr. Hari Prasad's arrest is atrocious and at the same time the news has some a silver lining, because shows that out of desperation the ECI has gone berserk. Well, I am sure that the ludicrous action on the part of ECI will only help the cause of democracy – by making it untenable for them to continue using EVMs. I am sure Mr. Hari Prasad will come out of the arrest as man of greater stature than before his arrest. Be strong Mr. Prasad! You are a "freedom fighter" - - you have been arrested in the cause of democracy, which is what freedom is all about.

All lovers of democracy should immediately urge ECI to stop witch hunting and scrap EVMs in the interest of democracy. Mr. Prasad is my hero! Three cheers for Mr. Prasad! ECI haae-haae (down with ECI)!

Dr. Satinath Choudhary, Formerly professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering in the USA, Currently an activist in Delhi and New York

I am pained to hear about the sudden arrest of Hari Prasad garu. I strongly condemn this action. Anybody interested in preserving our democracy will disapprove of the petty mindedness of the Government. The ECI should have the grace to congratulate the bold initiative of Hari Prasad Garu. Had I been in the ECI, I would have openly invited the Technocrat community to examine our EVMs and point out each and every loophole so that we could design an improved EVM which can not be tampered with. If I had reasonable doubt about the infallibility of the EVMs, I would have gone back to the ballot papers. To me the democracy of my country is more important than the easy process of voting.

I demand unconditional release of Hari Prasad garu.

Jatish Chandra Mohanthy, IAS (Retd.)
