

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Politics/Elections

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Activists write to Chief Election Commissioner on the uncalled for arrest of Mr. Hari Prasad.

New Jersey, Aug 21, 2010: The following letter was send by Save Indian Democracy to Chief Election Commissioner on uncalled for arrest of Mr. Hari Prasad.

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Dear Mr. Quraishi,

Save Indian Democracy with great efforts brought the best international experts recently to India who worked with Mr. Hari Prasad to expose the vulnerabilities of Indian EVMs. As you know, the efforts of Mr. Hari Prasad was to educate Indian public and the path taken was only to work around the unrealistic and dishonest restrictions imposed by ECI in demonstrating the vulnerabilities of EVMs.

In this effort, Mr. Hari Prasad has nothing other than the best interests of the country. You should note that the same Mr. Hari Prasad have not entertained a single offer for tampering by politicians as far as North East India with offer of attractive sums. It will be a matter of shame and travesty of justice for Election Commission of India instead of appreciating the acts of such heroes, your office stoop to intimidating and punishing them. It is a disgrace that the ECI that is arresting and intimidating the activist who has only best interest of the nation at heart, has done little about those who are approaching Net India that Mr. Hari leads to tamper them for a price in real elections.

The act which Mr. Hari Prasad did was also done by activists in US and Europe and they are respected for it. For e.g, Dr. Alex Halderman who worked with Mr. Hari Prasad in hacking India's EVM has also hacked a EVM used in US elections and he was employed by State of California Secretary of State to expose the vulnerabilities of the EVM's used in California. If any, ECI could use services of Mr. Hari Prasad to better serve the nation.

During the Usenix conference Mr. Alok Shukla was told by international community that the way to resolve this is not by use of threats but by amicable discussions held with honesty. Instead of heeding such advice, you decided to pursue a path that will only enhance the resolve of international community by many factors to show the tamperability and lack of transparency of Indian EVMs across international conferences/discussions and expose the shameful threats used by Election Commission of India to suppress the truth because of the fear of the exposure. It will only lead the international community to communicate to Election Watch bodies and Human Rights Commissions that Indian elections are a farce and the use of threats to suppress is the best proof that Election Commission of India has

something to hide. Indian Elections and the venerable Election Commission of India will soon become a laughing stock of the world.

I request you sir, to rethink the path chosen and restore the dignity of highly respected institution you are leading. We understand bureaucracy in India is under pressures that are not usually patent to those outside, but by standing up for what is right you will be remembered in history. There are many in dustbin of history of India that are bringing down a great nation with enormous potential, but I request you to stand apart and do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Satya Dosapati

For Save Indian Democracy

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