



Free Sudha Bhardwaj and all academics and professionals unlawfully arrested; by denying their bail appeals, they have been put at risks of contracting Covid-19 in crowded prison cells.

Sudha Bhardwaj was arrested on 28 August 2018; in two years the police and authorities are yet to provide any convincing evidence of the charges for which she has been arrested. Now, having to stay in crowded prison in Mumbai (Maharashtra) for an uncertain future, she is at genuine risks of contracting Covid-19. Academics, lawyers, health professionals, poets and writers across the world have no words to condemn the misuse of power by the Indian state on its own people by putting lawyer Sudha Bhardwaj and other academics and professionals in prison without definite charges.

Why is Sudha Bhardwaj in prison? [see overleaf]

We condemn this deplorable act of mistreatment of justice and misuse of power by the Indian government and its machinery.

**Release Sudha Bhardwaj
Join 'Free Them All'**

Please share the leaflet with friends, relatives, colleagues at work, and with relevant networks; form 'Free Sudha' campaign group in your hometown.

If you would like to know more about the arrests, and for any comments or suggestions to help the campaign, please write to: india.crisis@protonmail.com

Visit: www.india-crisis.world



Photo credit: The Hindu

Sudha Bhardwaj and Gautam Navlakha, speaking at a meeting in Delhi describing the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, UAPA as 'unusual and unconstitutional'. [The Hindu, 14 July 2018.](#)

Six weeks later she was arrested (along with Navlakha and other academics and intellectuals) under the same act that denotes a person as anti-national, engaged or associated with terror activities punishable for life. Sudha Bhardwaj is one of the National Secretaries of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), the largest human rights organisation in India working over 30 years to help create a democratic and just society.

Who is Sudha Bhardwaj?

Sudha is a humble and very caring woman who is a highly educated intellectual. She had her schooling in Cambridge, UK and studied mathematics, and later law, at prestigious universities in India. At the time of her arrest she was a visiting professor of law at the National Law School in Delhi. A person of such calibre has dedicated her life to help the poor and therefore spent the last three decades among unskilled workers in the state of Chhattisgarh, and as a lawyer took cases of police atrocities, custodial deaths and land grabbing by powerful companies for mining.

What is her crime?

Like the other intellectuals arrested under the UAPA, Sudha Bhardwaj too has been portrayed as one who has close links with Maoists. Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi went one step ahead by describing them ["urban Maoists live in AC rooms in cities, ... their children study abroad; they move around in good cars; but they sit there and through a remote system, they work to destroy the lives of tribal children"](#).

Sudha Bhardwaj, born in the US, in fact renounced her US citizenship, and her daughter grew up in a miner's slum and went to an ordinary school. Responding to Sudha's arrest, renowned historian [Ramchandra Guha in a television interview](#) said, 'these charges are utterly fabricated arbitrary and illegal misuse of police and state power ... to divert attention partly to ease capture natural resource from adivasi areas for corporate class close to the government an attempt to divert attention from failures of government ...'.



The girl's placard says, 'I am Sudha Bhardwaj'.

Women groups across India have demanded her unconditional release.

Join ' Free Them All' Campaign.