



गृह मंत्री
भारत
नई दिल्ली - 110001
HOME MINISTER
INDIA
NEW DELHI-110001

May 11, 2010

Dear Swami Agnivesh ji,

I learned that you led a group of social activists on a peace march from Raipur to Dantewada between May 6-8, 2010. I have also learned that you advocated a cessation of violence for 72 hours "by either side before starting the peace process." I congratulate you and thank you for your efforts.

While I respect your views and urge you to continue to help find a solution, I would like to clarify the Government's position for your kind consideration:

- (1) The CPI (Maoist) should announce that they will abjure violence. To start with, they could say that they will not indulge in any violent activities beginning a specified date, say, June 1, 2010. (This is only an example and it could be an earlier date too.)
- (2) Once the announcement is made, the Central Government will consult the Chief Ministers of the affected States and prepare a response well before the specified date. The response will include an invitation to the CPI (Maoist) to hold talks.
- (3) On the specified date (say, June 1), we would expect that the CPI (Maoist) will **stop** all violent activities. We would closely observe whether the CPI (Maoist) will maintain the position of "no violence" for 72 hours. It goes without saying that, during the said period of 72 hours, the security forces will not conduct any operations against the CPI (Maoist).
- (4) It is our hope that talks will begin sometime during the period of 72 hours when there is "no violence".
- (5) Once the talk begins, we would expect that the CPI (Maoist) will continue to maintain its position of "no violence" until the talks are concluded.

I would appreciate if you could kindly keep the contents of this letter confidential. This is in line with what I told you when you met me a few days ago. However, I would encourage you to reach out to the CPI (Maoist) and persuade them to accept the Government's offer for talks, the sole condition being that the CPI (Maoist) should abjure violence.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(P. Chidambaram)

Swami Agnivesh
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