

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SADGURU JAGGI VASUDEV'S STATEMENTS ARE CONDEMNABLE**

**Swami Agnivesh**

It is with much indignation that I receive the pro-crony-capitalist statements made by Sadguru in his interview with an English TV channel. That a godman can so brazenly align himself with an anti-people industrial operation, with a proven track-record of violating norms for protecting the people from threats to their life and health for nearly two decades, should disquiet every Indian who cares for God. The argument that the life of the local people should be subservient to the prosperity of India is sheer blasphemy. People are more important than prosperity. Prosperity must be pursued for the sake of the people, and not people sacrificed for prosperity.

What worries me most is the possibility that the stand of the Sadguru could well be part of a calibrated strategy for reviving the Sterlite operations. I fear so, all the more because this comes in the wake of the repressive actions initiated against the anti-Sterlite activists, including those who have helped them.

At the heart of these criminal activities and devious advocacies is the dogma that the goal of material prosperity can justify any brutality and injustice. There cannot be a dogma more dangerous to democracy than this, and it is the bounden duty of all citizens to resist it to the last drop of their energy.

I urge Jaggi Vasudev to withdraw his indefensible statements in this regard and to apologize to the much-tormented people of Tuthukoodi for belittling their struggle for safety and justice.