

CRITIQUE

Centre for Training, Knowledge Development & Advocacy



Stan Swamy
as
My Inspiration

Dear partners and friends

I am happy to reach you out with the first issue of CRITIQUE, the tri-annual newsletter of the institute, in a new format. Two years ago, the institute stopped the print version and decided to go for e-format. Due to Covid-19 pandemic the newsletter was put on hold. Henceforth the newsletter will be published in e-format. I hope, as partners and friends of the institute, you will find time to have a glance at it.

I was personally enthralled to witness many events being organised around 5 July 2022, remembering Stan Swamy on his first death anniversary. Indian Currents magazine dedicated an issue to pay homage to Stan. Memorial lectures, public events and webinars were organised by various organisations in Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mumbai, Delhi, and Karnataka. Some institutions organised Memorial Eucharistic celebrations. On 9 July, recalling the memories of Frs. Henry Volken and Stan Swamy and their legacies, the two stalwarts of Indian Social Institute Bangalore, the institute organised a public lecture on 'Democracy and Human Rights Defenders'. The event was titled as Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture and the lecture was delivered by Adv. Vrinda Grover, chaired by Adv. Henri Tiphagne. Over 250 persons participated in person.

Stan was also fondly remembered in Talaja prison on 5 July. Vernon Gonsalves, one of the co-accused in Bhima Koregaon case, published an article the Scroll, titled, 'You are immortalised in our hearts': A cellmate's letter to Stan Swamy on his death anniversary <https://scroll.in/article/1027594/you-are-immortalised-in-all-our-hearts-a-cellmates-letter-to-stan-swamy-on-his-death-anniversary> Vernon wrote that Stan can't go away and won't go away. Yes, Stan remains with us. Stan has taken new avatars in millions of people. His prison letters will be remembered for generations to come - A caged bird can still sing. His poem: May Truth embolden us; To speak Truth to Power and be ready to pay the price, will continue to echo in the hearts of many. On 15 July, Anand Teltumbde, another co-accused BK-16 case celebrated his 3rd birthday in Talaja, who was arrested on 14 April 2020. Currently, 13 of the BK-16 accused are in various prisons without bail. There are no indications of trial at sight.

Such a scenario raises a fundamental question, whether our justice system is replaced by a bail system. Human rights defenders are punished much before they are proven guilty in a court of law. The legal principle, presumption of innocence or innocent until proven guilty has gone with the wind in India. The Supreme Court reiterated that bail is a matter of right and jail is an exception. Looking at extra-judicial processes to target, label and imprison the human rights defenders one only fears people's faith in judiciary also will wither away soon. Still, the citizens have not given up hope. Despite many challenges, poor people, intellectuals, jurists, academicians and human rights defenders continue to raise their voices against the false charges on Teesta Selalvad and Medha Patkar. Will the judiciary stand up to uphold the Constitutional principles, natural justice and ethics?

The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate on how the institute is engaged in improving the quality of life of the excluded and marginalised. You will find interesting most significant change narratives and videos. Your comments are welcome. Continue to read and journey with us.

Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ
Director

Recent Events

Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture

For speaking truth to power, he had to pay the price. He was falsely implicated in the Bhima-Koregaon case and was kept in judicial custody in Talaja jail, without a trial. He breathed his last on 5 July, 2021, due to neglect by prison authorities despite being an elderly person. His death was an 'institutional murder'...



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I commit myself for Social Justice, Peace & Reconciliation

"The workshop personally inspired me to commit myself for social action, focusing on justice and reconciliation as I became aware of social issues that affect the poor", said, Scholastic Ronald Antony, Chennai Jesuit Province.

"Socio cultural analysis workshop helped me look at the reality around me with new perspectives",.....

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What a blessing and privilege to enter the portals of ISIB

I have been working at ISI-B for 10 months. I consider this opportunity as a unique gift in my life as I have received so many blessings. In the beginning everything looked strange as I was not prepared to work in an institution in a systematic manner. I felt that my capacities were limited. Everyone I came in contact with taught me something....



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Partnership model to build youth collective to animate communities

"It is not an easy task to organise capacity building programmes for people between the age 18-35 years. But ISI-B is doing it. Motivating girls to participate in the training might be a tough task since some parents may not agree to send them. Keeping girls and boys together in the programme will be also a challenge, but we will not give up"....

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Thank you for saving my life

Mr. Mohan, a 35-year-old Tamil migrant worker met with an accident in 2018. He was treated in Chennai Royapettah Government Hospital. Both his knees were fractured, and he was suggested to go for continuous physiotherapy. He could not continue physiotherapy due to the long distance from his village to the government hospital....



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Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture: Live Recorded Video



VOLKEN-STAN SWAMY MEMORIAL LECTURE

ON
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



are delivered by
Senior Advocate Vrinda Grover
Researcher, Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist

Chairperson
Senior Adv. Henri Tiphagne
Human Rights Activist, Executive Director, People's Watch, Madurai



Date: 9 July 2022 (Saturday) at 4.00 pm

Venue: Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bengaluru



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Bengaluru, Karnataka, IN - 560 046

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