



# Bund gegen Anpassung

www.bund-gegen-anpassung.com

August 2010

## Please protest against the persecution of Indian rationalists!

We were informed by Jaya Gopal about the following case:

---

Dear Friends,

This is an urgent message. I invite your attention to the case of Mr. Kranthikar alias Lakshmaiah, the editor and publisher of two volumes entitled: "The Crescent Over the World", who was arrested along with two other rationalists, two printers and the confiscation of all the copies of the book on 26th and 27th February 2010.

2. Mr. Kranthikar alias Lakshmaiah (age 70), Innaiah, M. Subba Rao, friends of Kranthikar, the DTP-Printer were released on bail. Dr. Bhanu Prasad who wrote the Preface escaped arrest and later secured a bail.

3. Please refer to my previous report on how Muslims of Khammam city demonstrated their fury over the book.

4. The main objective of these books as per the written complaint given to the police by one Mr. Mohammad Asan are as follows:

The heinous conspiracy of writings includes the most serious comments as hereunder:

a) Islamo Fascism – contains 3 pages

(this article is supposed to have been authored by Ibn Warraq or Ali Sina – Jaya Gopal)

b) Muhammad Prophet compared as (with) Hitler, in Vol.2 on page 296

c) Danish Cartoons of Prophet

d) The Wives of Prophet (satirical description of Muhammad's harem by Salman Rushdie in Satanic Verses reproduced on pages 268 and 269 etc)

e) The reproduction of certain passages from Taslima Nasreen's novel Lajja (Shame) (The complainant states that the reprints were banned. I don't think any portions of 'Lajja' were ever banned in India as the novel is available in many languages in India – Jaya Gopal)

Attempts to get the copies of 2 volumes resulted in vain. Perhaps it may take some time to secure at least one set.

The case is booked. The case may come up for hearing and trial soon. Last night, I got the Email ID and Fax number of the Chief Minister of the State of Andhra Pradesh, who ordered the arrest of Kranthikar and others.

Basing on my previous report and the subsequent developments I request all of you to write letters of protest and demand for the withdrawal of the case against Kranthikar et al, as the act of seizure (confiscation) of the copies of the 2 volumes (Crescent Over the World), arrests of rationalists violates Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution that guarantees Freedom of Belief, and the Right to Expression of the individual. The Government's quick reaction in arresting of rationalists, raiding their houses, seizure of the copies without going through the contents therein strengthens Islamic fundamentalism and encourages these reactionary forces to resort to violent acts. All these acts of coaxing and cajoling of the Hindus and Muslims are carried on by trampling the Secular-Democratic constitutional principles under the iron-heels of the State for political gains.

Please address your protest letters to Dr. K. Rosaiah, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

With best wishes  
In Solidarity  
Jaya Gopal

---

Please send polite letters of protest to:

**Dr. K. Rosaiah,**  
**Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**  
**'C' Block, 6th Floor,**  
**A.P. Secretariat**  
**Ameerpet, Hyderabad, India.**  
**Fax : 0091 40 2345 2498**  
**0091 40 2345 4828**  
**Email : [cmap@ap.gov.in](mailto:cmap@ap.gov.in)**  
**(please send us a copy)**

Following we publish the protest letters of Dr. Peter Priskil (on behalf of Ahriman Publishing House) and Dr. Fritz Erik Hoevens, and we give a report on the protest from the French Freethinkers.

---

---

Honorable Chief Minister Dr. Rosaiah,

as we have been informed, State authorities of Andhra Pradesh have arrested the publisher and editor Mr. Kranthikar alias Lakshmaiah and have ordered the confiscation of his book entitled "The Crescent over the world". As we have learned furthermore, two Indian rationalists and two printers have also been arrested; Dr. Bhanu Prasad, who wrote the preface of this edition, happily escaped arrest and was released on bail as the other defendants.

We are shocked in view of these measures, which remind to the dark Middle Ages and which are unworthy of a democratic and secular State. We have to remind you, that Article 19 (1) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Freedom of Belief and the Right of Expression of the individual. State authorities including the Chief Minister are obliged to respect the Indian Constitution!

Therefore we strongly demand

- 1) the immediate withdrawal of the case against Mr. Kranthikar and friends,
- 2) the immediate annulment of the confiscation of the 2 volumes of the book "The Crescent over the world".

You can be assured, Hon'ble Mr. Rosaiah, that we will inform our readers and the German public about these scandalous cases of censorship and that we carefully will observe the further development of this shameful affair. The main objectives against that book are ridiculous and without any support, especially the complaint against the critical review of "Islamofascism". We Germans know very well, that the great Christian churches – Roman Catholic Church and Protestant Churches – have supported from the very first moment the Hitler fascists. So, if Islamic forces don't respect democracy, if they prosecute their critics and threaten them by murder fatwas (as they did in the cases of Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasrin), they shouldn't blame the mirror for telling the truth.

We expect, Hon'ble Mr. Chief Minister, the immediate restoration of the violated article 19 (1) of the Indian Constitution.

Sincerely and with Voltairian regards,

Dr. Peter Priskil  
Ahriman Publishing House

---

Dear Sir,

With alarm and disgust I got the news of Mr. Kranthikar, author of "The Crescent over the World", being arrested together with his publisher, two other Rationalist activists, and two printers on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of February of this year, all copies of his book being confiscated.

As an author, whose work is also known to a certain number of your compatriots (and partly translated into Malayalam), and as somebody who, during the last four decades, visited India rather often, be it as a tourist attracted by her cultural treasures, be it by invitation to lectures by various free-thinkers' organizations, I fervently hope that you do your duty and put an end to this anti-constitutional affair – see Article 19(1) –, so that all persons concerned that were harmed by silly and illiterate local authorities, as they might exist in any country including mine, will be fully and immediately rehabilitated and all copies of a possibly valuable book released.

India's reputation in the world – and she did deserve that more-than-average reputation on that grounds indeed – is mainly based on her secularist constitution (and Mahatma Gandhi's venerable figure in the background of it). You are obliged by your oath to defend that Constitution, thus preventing India's image being polluted by indulgence to religious fanaticism and laxness in following her constitution. The case is aggravated by the fact that the anti-constitutional act against a book, its author and publishers was inspired by Muslim fanatics' demonstrations at Khammam city that by the authorities had to be met with pro-constitutional uprightness instead of indulgence to militant obscurantism.

As far as I know, the fundamentalists' objections to Mr. Kranthikar's book are the following ones:

- He is quoting from Taslima Nasreen's novel "Lajja" they seemingly dislike, a book, however, that has never been banned in the whole of India;
- He is quoting from Rushdie's "Satanic Verses" they don't like either. – I know this novel, undoubtedly a work of art, quite well; when Islam is concerned, the author never uses other sources than the quranical and "canonical" ones. By slightly changing the narrator's perspective, as he does, a satirical effect comes into being. It is the problem of the Quran and Hadith authors or believers respectively, not the task of the state to fence these persons off from a perspective of seeing those texts that is different from the idealizing perspective they have been told to keep towards them when they were children.
- They don't want the prophet Mohamed to be compared – trait by trait, and rationally – with Hitler. – Contrasted with Lord Krishna or Jesus "Christ", figures poorly or not at all linked to history, the prophet Mohamed is mainly a historical figure, may his early biography be pervaded by legends or not. This is a thing he has in common with Hitler, Gandhi, Obama, you and me (if documents about us do survive). Therefore he must suffer comparison with other historical figures; there are indeed undeniable parallels between Mohamed and Hitler in the way of their self-styling and their proneness to military aggression; on the other hand, differences can hardly be overlooked (for example, Hitler led a vegetarian and monogamous life). Historical comparisons must not be obstructed, or even suppressed; if Mohamed's followers find the founder of their faith inadequately described, they may write their own argumentations and books against it, but that must do. Freedom of opinion is the cardinal line that separates enlightened states from despicable tyrannies.
- 

Hoping that you will find ways of quickly and satisfyingly ending an unworthy affair and protecting your country's image from anti-constitutional pollution,

Yours sincerely,  
Fritz Erik Hoevens

---

## **Protests from the French Freethinkers against the persecution of Mr. Kranthikar and other Rationalist activists in Andhra Pradesh (India)**

From 8 to 10 July 2010 the French Association of the Free Thought (*Fédération nationale de la Libre Pensée*) held its yearly National Convention in the city of Bordeaux in southwest France. On this occasion, a guest speaker from the German atheist organization Alliance against Conformity (*Bund gegen Anpassung*) informed the participants on the persecution of Mr. Kranthikar and other Rationalist activists, as well as of two printers, in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh for their having contributed to the publication of a book containing a number of critical essays on the subject of Islam. The speaker informed the audience that on 26 and 27 February 2010 Mr. Kranthikar and his friends had been arrested, their houses raided and all copies of the book 'The Crescent over the World' confiscated. The speaker explained that these measures of persecution had been taken due to complaints by Muslim fundamentalists about the book who denounced for example the mere fact that it contains a reference to the well-known Danish newspaper cartoons on Muhammad or includes quotations from Salman Rushdie's 'Satanic Verses' or Taslima Nasrin's novel 'Lajja'. The conference members were shocked and alarmed to learn of this ruthless persecution of Rationalist activists by the authorities of Andhra Pradesh at the instigation of religious fanatics. Many of those present immediately signed a declaration of protest which has been sent, both by Fax and registered air mail, to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. K. Rosaiah. This protest declaration, drawn up in French language with an English translation, reads as follows:

We, the undersigned participating at the National Congress of the French Freethinkers' Federation at Artigues près Bordeaux from 8 to 10 July 2010, solemnly protest against the arrest of Mr. Kranthikar, author of the book 'The Crescent Over the World', together with two other Rationalist activists and two printers, and against the confiscation of all copies of this book on 26 and 27 February 2010. These acts of persecution inflicted on Mr. Kranthikar and the other persons concerned for their having contributed to the publication of a compilation of critical texts on the subject of Islam is an extremely severe violation of the freedom of speech and religious freedom as guaranteed by Article 19 of the Indian Constitution as well as of the fundamental constitutional principle according to which India is a secular State. We will follow the further events in this case with the greatest attention, and we demand that the said constitutional rights are immediately restored and, accordingly, all acts of persecution against Mr. Kranthikar and the other persons concerned are stopped and the confiscation of the book revoked.

The delegates of the *Libre Pensée* Annual Convention also adopted unanimously a formal protest resolution along the same lines which has meanwhile also been sent to Government of Andhra Pradesh. On the conference in Bordeaux, it was particularly stressed that the French Freethinkers will continue to follow the case closely until it will be definitely withdrawn and all copies of the confiscated books released for their unhindered publication and distribution.