



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District

28th June, 2016

Dear Shri Pinarayi Vijayan

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Chief Minister of Kerala.

I write to you to draw your attention to reports that suggest the high preponderance of Child Sexual Abuse cases in Education Institutions in Kerala, and lack of a determined response to these incidents by successive Governments. Please find attached with this letter, a copy of my letter dated December 04 2015 to your predecessor.

As you will be aware, in December last year, journalist VP Rajeena and film-maker Ali Akbar related their experiences of abuse as children, in certain Education Institutions in the state of Kerala. Attached with this letter are copies of media reports with the statements of the aforementioned persons. More recently, in March this year, the Indian Express reported that the vacancy for the Nodal officer for the implementation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, remains unfilled to date. This, you will acknowledge, is testimony to the continuing apathy towards our constitutional responsibility as authorities to ensure the protection of child rights and ensure the best interest of our children.

Section 19 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, mandates that *any individual or authority who has apprehension that an offence under the Act has been committed or is likely to be committed, shall mandatorily report the matter to the concerned authorities*. In light of the explosive revelations made by these prominent figures, and the absence of any response on this issue from any official from the state administration, it is clear that the Government of Kerala is not discharging its responsibility and accountability in connection with these allegations.



It would be appropriate that your Government immediately order a probe of these allegations and prosecute the perpetrators and enablers of these crimes, if any.

You will recall that in March 2014, nearly 500 children from the state were rescued from an alleged trafficking attempt. While the CBI has registered a case in this regard, I am surprised at the silence of the State Government on this very serious issue. The 2014 incident is possibly the tip of the iceberg and points to possibly a wider, more flourishing Child Trafficking phenomenon and Child Sexual Abuse being highly pervasive in Kerala. Child Sexual Abuse, a form of terrorism perpetrated against children, requires the urgent and immediate intervention by your Government and not silence. The conspiracy of silence that has prevented people from talking about Child Sexual Abuse is being broken and the focus is now on Government's response to protecting our children against these crimes and to bringing criminals to book.

Kerala has reported the highest number of Child Trafficking cases in India, and has therefore, unfortunately developed the ignominy of being home to a large number of sexually abused children. Your Government is vested with the responsibility of ensuring the safety, well-being and protection of children, and I hope that your Government will take cognisance of this by taking requisite action, proactive policy, active framework and protect our children.

Sincerely,

Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram

Annexures:

1. Letter to Shri Oomen Chandy, 4th December 2015
2. Indian Express report dated November 30th 2015, "Was abused by Ustaad"
Says Kerala filmmaker Ali Akbar.



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Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

4th December 2015

Dear Shri Chandy,

I write to you to draw your attention to recent allegations about the sexual abuse of children in Education Institutions in Kerala, and lack of response from your Government to these. As you are aware, journalist VP Rajeena and film-maker Ali Akbar have recently related their experiences of abuse as children, in certain Education Institutions.

Section 19 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act 2012, mandates that *any individual or authority who has apprehension that an offence under the Act has been committed or is likely to be committed, shall mandatorily report the matter to the concerned authorities*. In light of this, and the recent revelations made, it is clear that the State Government of Kerala is not discharging its responsibility and accountability in connection with these allegations. It would be appropriate that your Government immediately order a probe of these allegations and prosecute the perpetrators and enablers of these crimes, if any.

You will recall that in March 2014, nearly 500 children from the state were rescued from an alleged trafficking attempt. While the CBI has registered a case in this regard, I am surprised at the silence of the State Government on this very serious issue. The 2014 incident is possibly the tip of the iceberg and points to possibly a wider, more flourishing Child Trafficking phenomenon and Child Sexual Abuse being highly pervasive in Kerala. Child Sexual Abuse, a form of terrorism perpetrated against children, requires the urgent and immediate intervention by your Government and not silence. The conspiracy of silence that has prevented people from talking about Child Sexual Abuse is being broken and the focus is now on Government's response to protecting our children against these crimes and to bringing criminals to book.



Kerala has reported the highest number of Child Trafficking cases in India, and has therefore, unfortunately developed the ignominy of being home to a large number of sexually abused children. Your Government is vested with the responsibility of ensuring the safety, well-being and protection of children, and I hope that your Government will take cognisance of this by taking requisite action. If the State Government fails to take the necessary action, I will as a concerned representative of the people, take to legal recourse to address the problem.

I am attaching a copy of a press statement I have issued in this regard, for your perusal.

Yours sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Oommen Chandy
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram

Madrasa row: Was abused by ustad, says Kerala filmmaker Ali Akbar

After Muslim woman journalist V P Rajeena disclosed about how ustads used to abuse girls and boys in her madrasa days, the social media has witnessed debate on madrasa life.

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Written by [Shaju Philip](#) | Thiruvananthapuram | Updated: November 30, 2015 7:31 am



Akbar said the entire students in his class had been sexually abused by the ustad.

Challenging the claim of Sunni Muslim leader Kanthapuram Aboobacker Musliyar that Kerala madrasas were free from sexual abuse, a Malayalam film director said he was sexually exploited by an ustad (teacher) during his time in madrasa.

Film director Ali Akbar said that when he studied in Class IV at a madrasa in Wayanad district, the then ustad had sexually abused him. "That madrasa was run by Kanthapuram Musliyar. If Musliyar is willing to look into the issue, I am ready to give details of the ustad," said Akbar.

His statements come after Muslim woman journalist V P Rajeena alleged that ustads abused girls and boys in the madrasa she was in.

[ALSO READ: Woman journalist targeted for FB post on abuse in madrasas](#)

Akbar alleged that the ustad sexually exploited every student in his class. "Sexual exploitation of children in madrasas is still going on. But, nobody is ready to speak out against it out of fear. When leaders like Kanthapuram Musliyar are heading the madrasa education system in Kerala, who would dare to complaint against an ustad," asks Akbar.

The film director said that after the incident, he never attended madrasa. "That incident of abuse...in early 1970s haunted me for several years. Hence, I decided against sending my children to madrasa," said Akbar.

He added: "After the experience from ustads, many students start abusing their classmates... Ustads create curiosity about sex in their class on whudu (ablution). After that, it is easy to trap children."

Meanwhile, Rajeena's [Facebook](#) post on alleged sexual abuse in madrasas has triggered a discussion on social media on the issue. Many have alleged that they too faced abuse during their time in madrasas.

One of the posts said what Rajeena has written was not fiction. Such ustads exist in religious learning centres, it said. "Instead of abusing that woman, such elements who commit the crime should be exposed," the post added. Another said: "Not all madrasa teachers are rapists. But, from almost all madrasas, such incidents have been reported."