



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

Respected Sushmaji

30 January 2019

Sub: Urge your intervention on release and repatriation of Indian citizen arrested in Saudi Arabia under anti-blasphemy law

I am writing to you requesting your intervention on a request I have received from JWO Radhakrishnan Nair V (Retd), an Indian Air Force veteran, pleading for help for release of his son, Vishnu Dev Radhakrishnan's who is under arrest in Saudi Arabia since 07 June 2018.

The veteran father, a native of Alappuzha, Kerala, has written that his son was imprisoned following his twitter interaction with a woman from London. Vishnu was first arrested on a five-year jail term in June 2018 which was doubled to 10 years on 24 January 2019 after a higher court observed the punishment was not enough, along with a penalty of 1,50,000 Saudi Riyal (approx. Rs 28,50,000) on charges of blasphemy and hurting the sentiments of the Saudi kingdom. He is presently imprisoned at Khobar jail.

I have been informed that prior to the arrest, the company in which Vishnu worked as an engineer - Nasser S Al-Hajri Corporation, had kept him under custody for over 10 days assuring him that he would be deported to Kerala however, he was later arrested.

Since his son Vishnu's arrest, JWO Nair has been running from pillar to post trying to get help but to no avail. A letter received by the father from the consular, passport and visa (CPV) division of the Ministry of External Affairs, reads the arrest has been made on charges of "cybercrime pertaining to blasphemy and spreading messages against the Kingdom through social media."



सत्यमेव जयते

The father has also registered a grievance on MEA MADAD platform with Grievance No. SB2FRU103601218 since, however, all his queries and appeals for help have received no response.

I understand the case is sensitive in nature, however given the seriousness of the matter, the desperation of parents and the fact that it involves the life of a young Indian, I urge you to kindly intervene and help secure the release and repatriation of Vishnu at the earliest.

Yours Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Smt Sushma Swaraj

Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi

Enclosed: Email from JWO Radhakrishnan Nair V (Retd)

From: Radhakrishnan Nair <rkpoickad@gmail.com>
Sent: 30 January 2019 10:52
To: Rajeev Chandrasekhar <rajeev@rajeev.in>
Subject: Release of my Son from Saudi Jail.

Respected Sir,

I am an Ex-serviceman having served IAF for 21 years. I humbly request your kind-self to help me to get my son released from Saudi jail where he is imprisoned for misusing social media

My son was arrested on 07 Jun 18. He has tweeted something against their belief and the rules they followed. It happened when he was on argument with a Muslim friend of UK. The friend provoked him as she had abused Lord Shiva and the Indian culture and in retaliation he wrote against the prophet to win over her.

I have registered the case in MADAD and the registration number is SB2FRU103601218 dated 14 Jun 2018.

On 13 Sep 18 the criminal court awarded him 5 years imprisonment and 1.5 lakh riyals penalty, which is doubled by the appeal court on 24 Jan 19. He is presently imprisoned at Khobar jail.

I request your kind self to intervene and get his punishment revoked and enable his release at the earliest.

With Thanks&Regards,

Radhakrishnan Nliationair
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