

India's Food Sovereignty movement condemns the arrest of Sonam Wangchuck and others - Demands their immediate unconditional release

The under-signed individuals, who work to promote localised and sustainable food systems in India in order to build food sovereignty at all levels, condemn unequivocally the arrest of environmental and local governance activist Shri Sonam Wangchuck by the Government of India and ask for his immediate release.

It is a cruel joke that someone working for food sovereignty for a community/region, and thereby for the nation itself, is being questioned on the very concept of sovereignty and being portrayed as being anti-national, which is utterly ridiculous.

Localised food systems and agro-ecology as well as protection of environmental resources (especially from the plunder of corporate greed) need sound local governance, and the statehood demand of Ladakhis is well-justified. The issues that Wangchuck and his team have been working on, are about self-reliance - the very *atma nirbharata* that the Prime Minister of India rightly exhorts citizens of the country to adopt. We shouldn't forget that Wangchuk led a strong campaign to boycott Chinese products.

We have witnessed the lack of prompt and meaningful dialogues with peaceful protests in the context of the Kisan Andolan 2020-21 too, by the Government of India, leading to completely-avoidable loss of precious lives and to the build-up of unneeded strife in any such situation. We expect our governments to be responsive and sympathetic to the just demands of citizens, without inordinate and unjustifiable delays.

The labeling of people criticising governments for their policy actions/inactions, and of those building movements against problematic policies, as anti-national has no place in a democracy like India. Being critical of governments is not equal to being anti-national; it is most often an act of good citizenship. Wangchuck's character assassination as being "anti-national" must stop immediately.

We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated against properties like political party buildings and vehicles on September 24th 2025. We also condemn the government's action to hold Sonam Wangchuck responsible for the violence on the 24th of September 2025 when he was appealing for peace, and the police/armed forces firing upon citizens which resulted in deaths.

We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Sonam Wangchuck and five others (under NSA), in addition to the release of 44 others arrested. We demand that the Government of India continue with its dialogue to resolve the demands of the Ladakhis immediately.

Sd/-

1. Devinder Sharma, Agriculture Policy Analyst
2. Suman Sahai, Scientist trained in Genetics

3. Kavitha Kuruganti, Farmers' Rights Activist
4. Kapil Shah, Promoter of Organic Farming
5. Debal Deb, (Agro)-Ecologist and landraces conservator
6. Ashish Kothari, Researcher
7. Sridhar Radhakrishnan, Activist and Writer - Environment & Development
8. Kiran Vissa, Farmers' Rights Activist
9. Rajesh Krishnan, Organic Farmer, Traditional Paddy Diversity Conservator and Promoter
10. Ananthoo, Safe Food Alliance TN
11. Ashlesha Khadse, Independent Researcher
12. Selvam Ramasamy, TN Organic Farmers' Federation
13. Ramasubramaniam, Samanvaya
14. Usha Kumari S, Safe Food and Diversity Campaigner
15. Akash Badave, Promoter of Agro-Ecology

This statement is endorsed by:

1	A. R. Vasavi	Teaching and Research
2	Aanchal Gupta	Educator
3	Aasha Ramesh	Activist & Researcher
4	Aastha Gupta	Filmmaker
5	Aavika Dhanda	Project Manager
6	Abha Bhaiya	India coordinator - One Billion Rising campaign
7	Abhilash G S	Self Employed IT Professional
8	Aishwarya	Writer
9	Ajaymitra Singh Bisht	Social worker
10	Ajoy David	Designer
11	Akshay d Jethi	Job
12	Akshay Prakash Herur	Student
13	Alok Putul	Journalist
14	Aman Adhikary	Program Secretary
15	Amba Jamir	Policy and Development Strategist
16	Ambika P	Journalist
17	Amit Arora	Works for Environment
18	Amitava Adhikari	Assistant Professor, Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU, Baroda
19	Amjad Anwar	Secretary - Climate Leaders Action Network
20	Anando Dutta	Professional self employed

21	Ananya Aneesh	Student
22	Anil kumar	Managing Trustee, Sahodaya Trust
23	Anil Roy	Service
24	Anil sharma	Accounting
25	Anjali Monteiro	Academic and filmmaker
26	Anoop NE	Business
27	Anshuman Das	Food Activist and Agroecologist
28	Ansuman Agarwal	Comm Grad, Entrepreneur
29	Anugrah Lakshmanan	Classical Musician
30	Anupam Paul	Traditional Seed Saver and Former Additional Director of Agriculture, WB
31	Anuradha Sarang	CEO, Fair Trade Alliance Kerala
32	Anuradha Talwar	Trade union organiser
33	Anvir	Teacher
34	Arjun Dasgupta	Doctor
35	Arshdeep Arshi	Writer
36	Arun Kumar	Retd Professor JNU
37	Arvind	Business
38	Arvindbhai Shekh	Retired
39	Ashok Kumar Dhawan	Accupressurist
40	Ashok Majumdar	Entrepreneur
41	Asim Siddiqui	Researcher
42	Asmita Meena Jayendra	Community worker
43	Asokan C.B.	Social Worker
44	B Kondala Reddy	Farmer Activist,Rutu Swarajya vedika
45	B.Girija Devi	Development professional
46	Babu PS	Medical professional
47	Banyllashisha Wankhar	I'm a Documentary film maker
48	Benson Issac	University professor
49	Bhadra kumari K V	Advocate practicing at Ernakulam in Kerala State
50	Bhagwant Bajrang Belose	Voluntary worker
51	Bharat Mansata	Writer & agro-ecological regeneration activist
52	Bhavuk	Architect, Urban Designer
53	Binaifer Bharucha	Photographer

54	BJ Singh	Project Manager
55	Bomjar Boje	Student Filmmaker
56	C Balachandran	Farmer
57	Cedric Prakash	Human Rights Reconciliation & Peace Activist -Writer
58	Chakradhar	Researcher
59	Chandrika Singh	Software Engineer
60	Charan M	Business professional and educator
61	Chetan Kumar	Retired
62	Debabrata Roy Laifungbam	Public health physician
63	Deepa P. Gopinath	Retd Professor
64	Deepak Harchand	
65	Deepak Kumar Pareek	Social work
66	Deepali Ghelani	Individual
67	Deepti Joshi	Independent
68	Deepti Khera	Educator
69	Dev Desai	Social activists
70	Dharmendra G Shah	Plant Ecologist
71	Dharmesh Patel	Climate action researcher
72	Dinesh Abrol	Academic
73	Dinesh Braganza	Psychologist
74	Dinesh Chandra hada	Community worker
75	Dinesh Kumar	Working professional as seed and soil swaraj expert in rajasthan area to lead community led seed and soil conservation
76	Dipti Bharatia	Citizen
77	Divya	Student
78	Divyesh Nanjibhai Nagar	Scientific Research Services Laboratories
79	Dr Arun Gupta	Pediatrician
80	Dr Bina Thomas	Heritage Consultant
81	Dr Kanubhai Valabhai Kalsaria	General surgeon, social worker, Gandhian agitation for fertile wet land of farmers
82	Dr Smita Dhawale	Consulting psychiatrist
83	Dr Sunny Sandhu	Medical doctor , Musictherapist, Musician, Founder Bhoomitra Beda Yata
84	Dr. E Unni Krishnan	Environmentalist

85	Dr. Indu Prakash Singh	Facilitator, CityMakers Mission International
86	Dr. Nandakumar	Professor (Retd)
87	Dr.Suhas Kolhekar	Health Rights and Social Justice Activist.
88	DSSR Krishna	Lecturer in English
89	Duraisingam	Consumer Activist
90	Farah Khan	Educationist
91	Francis Kalathunkal	Farmer
92	Gaurav Dhar	Banker
93	Gautam	Retired
94	Gayatri A M	Social scientist
95	Geeta Sethi	Health and Development Professional
96	Geetha K.Varier	Researcher
97	Geetha Narayanan	Educator retd
98	Gérard Debrinay	Retired
99	Ghanshyam	Cooperative Bank Workers Union
100	Giri	Artist
101	Gita Jayaraj	Independent Writer, Editor and Researcher
102	Gouri Dhatt	Professor of university D.Sc
103	Goutam Roy	Retired
104	Gova Rathod	Human right activist
105	Gowri Sankara Rao	NGO
106	Haridas Narayanan	Works in software industry
107	Harikumar KS	Science Activist
108	Harish Vasudevan	Lawyer
109	Heguanghai Pame	Social worker
110	Himani Bisht	Social worker:: I'm a bachelor's student and also I work for society and invironment.
111	Hiral Dave	Development professional
112	Indira Bharadwaj	Therapist
113	J Devika	Feminist Scholar
114	J P Julka	Ex -Banker
115	Jagdish Patel	Social work

116	Jahangir Asgar Jani	Artist
117	Jahnavi Pai	Independent
118	Janki Andharia	Academician, Professor, teacher
119	Jay Vyas	Music Events
120	Jayan T.V.	Higher secondary teacher
121	Jayashree Aravind	Musician
122	Jayesh Joshi	Social Worker
123	Jayesh Joshi	Social worker
124	Jeet Joshi	student
125	Jeff Mathews	Teacher
126	John Kurien	Researcher
127	John Michael	Independent researcher, Hyderabad
128	Joshy Jacob	Advocate
129	Joy Paul	Painter
130	Juli Cariappa	Organic farmer
131	Jyotika Sood	Former Journalist
132	K Babu Rao	Chief Scientist (Retired)
133	K J Ramarao	Engineer
134	K V Ganash	Theatre activist
135	Kamal	Housewife
136	Kamla Bhagra	Social Worker
137	Kamlesh Gokani	Business of agri products marketing
138	Kaniza Garari	Media - Editor
139	Kanneganti Ravi	Social Activist, Rythu Swarajya Vedika, Telangana
140	Karma Bhutia	
141	Kedar Sirohi	Farmer
142	Kesari Haravoo	Filmmaker
143	Keyur	Business
144	Khant Payalben Mukeshbhai	Study law
145	Khiupanang Gangmei	Photographer
146	Kishor Mathew	Farmer
147	KP Jayasankar	Academic and filmmaker
148	KP Singh	Social activist
149	Krishna Ballabh Chaudhary	Dairy Professional
150	Krishnakant Chauhan	Activist

151	Kumarappa Agroecology Unit	Farmer
152	Kumari Slish	Communication
153	Kunvar Priyankaben Rajeshbhai	B. Com L. L. B
154	Kusumam Joseph	Rtd. teacher
155	Kutti Krishnan	Entrepreneur
156	Lakshmi Nair	Home maker
157	Lalita Ramdas	Educator
158	Lalitha Vijayan	Retired Scientist & Independent social worker
159	Latha Karuthedath	Retired teacher
160	Leila Passah	Independent consultant
161	M R Krishna Mohan	IT Professional
162	Madhu Reddy	Permaculture Farmer/Educator
163	Madhumita Banerjee	Retired
164	Maj Gen (Dr) Yash Mor	Military veteran
165	Majid khan	Social sector
166	Makwana Aatmi Pankajbhai	Studying law
167	Malati Mukherjee	Writer
168	Malvikaa Solanki	Permaculture Practitioner and Land Steward
169	Manas Arvind	Weaver - Farmversities Alliance
170	Manesh Sontakke	Student
171	Mayuree Pandit	Facilitator - community building, collective healing, peace building
172	Meena d	SCMI program secretary
173	Meera Sanghamitra	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)
174	Meet Joshi	Student
175	Megha Sreyus	Lecturer in Art History, Art Curator
176	Mohanan V	Agriculture
177	Monica Raheja	Management Consultant
178	Mordecai Panmei	Film maker
179	Motilal G	Social activities in connection with communist party of india f
180	Moushumi Basu	Academic
181	MP Surendran	Writer, Media person
182	Mukesh kailash kushwaha	Master's student.
183	Mukesh Kumar	Activist

184	Mukesh Meda	Master of Social Work
185	Mukesh Porwal	Block facilitator
186	Muralidharan E. M.	Retired Chief Scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur, Kerala
187	N Roy	Physician and Public health
188	Nandish B N	Organic farmer
189	Narendra Raghunath	Artist/Academic
190	Narendranath Damodaran	Promoter of Natural Farming
191	Naresh Dadhich	Scientist Resesrch
192	Narinder Pal Singh	Service
193	Nasreen Rustomfram	Retired Prof
194	Natasha Kular	Agri-Energy Researcher
195	Navdeep Mathur	Faculty, IIM Ahmedabad
196	Nayana Bhagwan Parab	Coordinator
197	Neel Kamal	Journalist
198	Neesha Jhaveri	Retired
199	Neesha Noronha	Sustainable farming supporter
200	Niaz Mohammed	Yes
201	Nidhi	Youth Activist
202	Nikhil M Kharod	Pediatician and Public Health Professional
203	Nirmala Bhatt	Retired teacher
204	Niru Acharya	Rtd Associate professor
205	Nishant Bankapur	Farmer, Enterpreneur, agriculture consultant
206	Nishant Chattar	Teacher
207	Nitin Kumar	Service
208	Nova Prospekt	Farmer
209	Panchabhai Patel	Development Professional
210	Paramjeet Singh	Investment Planning
211	Paramjeet Singh	Academic
212	Parmesh chandra	Private job
213	Paromita Dutta	Catalyst
214	Parth Singh	Medical faculty
215	Parvathy Mira	Teacher
216	Pavel Chakraborty	Photographer
217	Pavithran kk	Private

218	Pavithran KK	MA BEd
219	Persis Ginwalla	Independent
220	Philip Biswas	President of FIMARC
221	Pinkesh Panchal	Accountant
222	Pinky Sittlani	Professional
223	Plran Elavia	Founder Kipepeo
224	Piyush khare	Retd professor
225	PM Jayan	Journalism
226	Poonam Bhandari	Life Science Researcher
227	Pradip Kumar Chatterjee	Working for protection of Natural Resource based traditional livelihoods, particularly small scale fisheries.larly
228	Prajakta Atul	Business
229	Prakriti Food	Social Enterprise
230	Pranjali Tripathi	Researcher
231	Prasad	Consultant
232	Prasad Chacko	Social Worker
233	Prashant Bhushan	Lawyer
234	Pratap Marode	Farmer
235	Prathmesh Kharatmal	Business
236	Pratixa Parmar	Social work
237	Prem Chandavarkar	Architect
238	Prem Singh	Retired Professor Delhi University
239	Priyanka Jain	Script supervisor
240	Purushan Eloor	Eco friendly builder
241	R Anand	Private employee
242	R Sheela	Retired
243	Radhika Arvind	Product designer, IT
244	Raheema Begum	Independent artist and writer
245	Raja	Management
246	Rajkamal Goswami	Researcher
247	Rakesh Agrawal	Independent researcher & writer
248	Ramdas Rao	Human rights worker
249	Ramesh Babu MV	Rtd. Head Master
250	Ramji Narayanan	Retired Academic
251	Ranjan Solomon	Independent journalist

252	Rathva Ashaben Varsanbhai	B.Com LL.B
253	Ravi Chopra	Environmentalist
254	Ravi Shanker	Poet
255	Rayappan Irudayam	Retired Principal / Ecologist
256	Rayson	organic farmer
257	Rema Kumar	Educator
258	Rigzen Stanba	Student
259	Rishi Kumar	Journalist
260	Ritu Sonalika	Professor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Srishti Manipal Istitute
261	Robert Mascarenhas	Religious Priest
262	Rohin Kumar	Author, Journalist and Independent Researcher
263	Rohini Molleti	I condemn the arrest of Sonam Wangchuck
264	Rohit Chauhan	Trade Union Activist
265	Rohit Prajapati	Environment Activist, Gujarat
266	Roji Jacob	Manager
267	S Ashalatha	Researcher and activist
268	S.Seethalakshmi	Independent Researcher and Activist
269	S.Srinivasan	Retired
270	Sadanand Menon	Writer/Journalist
271	Sagar Rabari	Social Work, agriculture
272	Sagari Krishnan	Educator
273	Sagari R Ramdas	Veterinary Scientist
274	Saji. K. P	Retired teacher
275	Salahudheen Ayyoobi	Content writer
276	Saloni	Scientist
277	Sameer Raturi	Activist of Save Himalaya Movement
278	Sameet	Convener, Right to Food Campaign
279	Samir Kuckreja	Hospitality Consultant
280	Sampada Deshpande	Brand Design Consultant
281	Samyuktha Gorrepati	Textile designer
282	Sangita Sharma	Solution Provider in Regenerative Agriculture, Creator of Seed Banks & Seed Conserver
283	Sanjai Kumar	Social worker
284	Sanjeev	General secretary, Hyderabad unit, Human Rights Forum

285	Sarsayee Foundation	Trust
286	Sasikumar	Cultural programmer
287	Satheesh	Self employee
288	Satyam Sai	Filmmaker
289	Sejal Dand	Development worker
290	Selvakumar Rangasamy	Architect
291	Sesha Sushant Kanumuri	PhD student
292	Shabnam Hashmi	Social Activist
293	Shalini Bhutani	Law and policy analyst
294	Shallone Pereira	Media Professional
295	Shalmali Guttal	Researcher
296	Shamanth	Artist
297	Shantilal Parmar	Rights Activist
298	Sharad Gupta	Journalist
299	Sharad Kumar Gupta	Editor
300	Sharada Gopal Dabade	Writer, activist
301	Shashi Enarth	Development
302	Shehnaz Abbasi	Lecturer
303	Sheila Govindaraj	Documentary film maker
304	Shilpa Ashar	Advertising consultant
305	Shivajee Biswanath	Filmmaker
306	Shivaji K Panikkar	Professor
307	Shoaib	Entrepreneurship
308	Shoba Abraham	Therapist
309	Shraddha	antrapreneur
310	Shree Padre	Development Journalist
311	Shreyan Joshi	Lawyer
312	Shreyas Srivatsa	Researcher, Educator & Entrepreneur
313	Shruti Pandey	Promoter Sustainable food systems
314	Shyama Kuriakose	Independent environmental law researcher
315	Siddharth Muthu	Social Worker
316	Sowmya S L	Ex banker
317	SreeHarsha T	Works on Farmers Rights and Accountability of Govt
318	Sreeja K V	Retired Govt.Servant
319	SS Sodhi	Farmer

320	Stany Pinto	Social worker
321	Subir Bhaduri	Scientist/Engineer/Educator
322	Subrahmanian N	Activist
323	Subroto Banerjee	Cofounder of a startup
324	Sudarshan Iyengar	Retired
325	Sudha N	Independent Researcher-Activist
326	Sujata Bhatt	Retired
327	Sujay Radhakrishnan	Professional
328	Suma Josson	Service
329	Sunil Kaul	Development Consultant
330	Sunil Malviya	Block Facilitator -vaagdhara Organisations
331	Sunita Rao	Vanastree
332	Surendranath C	Independent Journalist
333	Suvarna Joshi	Psychologist
334	Swapnali A C	Service
335	Swarajbir	Punjabi writer
336	swati Desai	social work
337	Syamkrishnan P A	Development Professional
338	Tapas Francis Biswas	Doctor
339	Tarak Kate	Scientist
340	Tarini Manchanda	Freelance Documentary Filmmaker
341	Teenaa Kau	Filmmaker
342	Tejal Rajyagor	Development Sector Professional
343	Thotad	Bamboo consultant
344	Trupti Pandya	Psychologist
345	Uma Shankari	Farmer, citizen
346	Utkarsh shukla	Student
347	Vadakkedath Padmanabhan	Medical practitioner
348	Vanessa Sekho	Tour Guide
349	Varsha Bhingardive	Western India Region Programme Secretary
350	Varun Rupela	Counselling Psychologist
351	Vasant M. Futane	Organic Farmer, Seed Saver, Social Activist
352	Vasava Karinaben Vijaybhai	Student of Law
353	Vasundhara	Interiors
354	Vatsala Naik	Ex-Banker

355	Veena M	Freelancer
356	Veena Shatrugna	Independent Researcher (Food and Nutrition)
357	Venugopal SJ	Farming
358	Vibhuti Patel	Retired teacher
359	Vidya Dinker	Indian Social Action Forum
360	Vidyaraj Palayullathil	Accountant
361	Vijay Aditya	Entrepreneur
362	Vijaya K	Accountant
363	Vikas Ambastha	Consultant
364	Vikram S Bajwa	Organic Farmer
365	Vinay Futane	Farmer
366	Vinay Kaul	Management Consultant
367	Vincent Vijayaraj	Asst professor
368	Vinit Gupta	Artist
369	Vinod T	Architect
370	Vinod Vyasulu	Retired
371	Virendra Saxena	Artist
372	Vishesh Nagare	Student
373	Vivek R Nair	Financial Analyst
374	Yamini	Teacher
375	Yash Vardhan Jain	Documentary Film maker
376	Yuvraj Dayanand	Self employed professional
377	Zishaan A Latif	Photographer / Visual Artist