



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
16 September 2021

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–1 October 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by World Barua Organization (WBO), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2021]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



## **Arbitrary Detention**

Thank you for allowing us to express our deepest concerns about the arbitrary detention of human rights defender Mr Stan Swamy. The august council has also issued a communication on the 18/2020 to India on the same issue. In India, Mr Stan Swamy is an 84-year-old priest and human rights defender from Jamshedpur Province, Jarkhand State. Mr Stan Swamy has been involved in social activism since the 1970s, working to protect the rights of the Adivasi minority indigenous people and the Dalit minority, from violation through forced displacement and illegal land acquisitions. Mr Swamy has been arbitrarily detained in Taloja jail since October 9, 2020, following his arbitrary arrest by NIA officials for his alleged involvement in the Bhima Koregaon case. The case relates to caste-based violence that broke out on January 1, 2018, during Elgar Parishad, a Dalit commemoration of the anniversary of a battle the Dalits won 200 years ago against the Peshwas (upper caste rulers) at Maharashtra State. Mr Swami, a patient of Parkinson's disease and who suffers from a hearing impairment, was put in jail on many occasions. My organization expresses its deepest concerns about the ongoing arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of Mr Stan Swamy which seem to be only aimed at pushing him away from his legitimate human rights activities. We urge this council to ask Indian authorities to. 1. Immediately and unconditionally release Mr Stan Swamy and all other human rights defenders arbitrarily detained in India since their detention is arbitrary and seems to be merely aimed at sanctioning their legitimate human rights. 2. Put an end to all acts of harassment against Mr. Stan Swamy and all other human rights defenders in India ensure that they can carry out their legitimate activities without any hindrance and fear of reprisals in all circumstances.

---