

NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU

President, Telugu Desam Party &
Leader of Opposition
AP Legislative Assembly
Government of Andhra Pradesh



Phone : 0863-2499999
E-mail : ncbn@telugudesam.org

Date : 17.08.2020

Dear Shri Narendra Modi Ji,

Sub.: Violation of Articles 19 and 21 of fundamental rights - Phone tapping by the ruling YSRCP - Tapping of phones of leaders of opposition parties, lawyers, journalists, activists - Destroying democratic institutions - Reg.

The country's security has improved tremendously and our armed forces have found new confidence under your able and dynamic leadership. Internally, the threat from terrorists and extremist forces has been mitigated, while externally our borders have been strengthened and new alliances were forged under your watchful eye. In this context, we would like to bring to your notice about a grave threat in the form of tapping phones of political leaders and others in Andhra Pradesh.

The people of Andhra Pradesh are facing a grave threat under the rule of Yuva Jana Sramika Raithu Congress Party (YSRCP). Ever since the YSRCP came to power, there has been a systematic and concerted attack on the democratic institutions in the State. Initially, the process of governance was completely derailed by attacking the investors and policies of previous regimes. This was followed by attack on institutions like State Election Commission and Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). Concomitantly, the ruling YSRCP has been attacking and threatening leaders of opposition parties, advocates, media persons, and social activists among others through various deceitful means.

One such *modus operandi* that the ruling party has chosen is by illegally and unlawfully tapping the phones of leaders of opposition parties, advocates, media persons and social activists. Telephone tapping as per the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 [Section 5(2)] and the Information Technology Act, 2000 [Section 69] can be done only in the case of threat to national security or in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, threat to friendly relations with foreign countries.

NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU

President, Telugu Desam Party &
Leader of Opposition
AP Legislative Assembly
Government of Andhra Pradesh



Phone : 0863-2499999

E-mail : ncbn@telugudesam.org

It appears that the YSRCP-led Government has not followed any due procedure of law in tapping the phones of people from various walks of life. Thus, it directly stands against Articles 19 and 21 of fundamental rights guaranteed in the constitution, where in right to privacy is violated. Further, Section 5(2) of Indian Telegraph Act and Section 69 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 are violated by this Government as there is no reason as per the above acts to tap the phones of leaders of opposition parties, advocates, journalists and social activists. It appears that the YSRCP-led Government has been tapping phones illegally for its own political gains.

Further, we are afraid it is being done through illegal software and unlawfully. This is all the more dangerous as in the long run it could pose direct threat to the national security. With such sophisticated technology in the hands of miscreants will not only violate right to privacy of individuals, but also would lead to compromise of people in high places by bringing them under blackmail threats.

The ruling party in its over enthusiasm to retain power at any cost is dangerously threatening and attacking any person or institution raising their voice against the mal-functioning of the Government. Lawyers, journalists and social activists were not spared along with the leaders of the opposition parties. It appears that the ruling YSRCP has now even targeted judiciary, the third pillar of the democracy, as it is facing hurdles from the judiciary.

It appears that private persons are also illegally tapping phones using cutting edge technology and tools. We are afraid that if such illegal phone tapping goes unchecked would pose serious threat to the integrity and security of the nation. Such illegal and unlawful practices by Governments or private persons, if unrestrained would lead to destruction of institutions that were built painstakingly over a period of time. In the long run, such nefarious activities would result in breakdown of democratic values and freedom of speech leading to jungle raj.

NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU

President, Telugu Desam Party &
Leader of Opposition
AP Legislative Assembly
Government of Andhra Pradesh



Phone : 0863-2499999
E-mail : ncbn@telugudesam.org

In this backdrop, we appeal to you to initiate immediate and stern action in order to check any further unlawful activities (phone tapping) by the ruling party and private persons in Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, it would be appropriate to order an enquiry by a competent body of the Government of India in order to check the illegal acts of phone tapping in Andhra Pradesh.

With warm regards,



(NARA CHANDRABABU NAIDU)

To
Shri Narendra Modi,
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of India
New Delhi.

Copy to Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice, Government of India, New Delhi.