

Anti Land-Grabbing Action Committee

ಭೂತಬಳಿರೆ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಹೋರಾಟ ಸಮಿತಿ

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31st OCTOBER 2014

Sub: Stripping off of all Police Service medals/other awards given while in Service to Dr HT Sangliana, a retired IPS officer of Karnataka Cadre, and initiation of Criminal proceedings and stopping all financial benefits(including pension) to him for his and his family members' involvement in fraudulently grabbing government land.

Dear Shri Anil Goswami,

I am A.T.Ramaswamy, an ex-MLA from Karnataka. I headed an all-party Joint Legislature Committee in Karnataka in 2006-2007 to give a comprehensive report on precious land grabbed/encroached in Bangalore city/Bangalore Urban District. The first two reports given by the Committee were placed before the Karnataka State Legislature on 1st Feb 2007 and 26th July 2007 respectively. (These two reports are available at <http://savekarnataka.in>). Unfortunately, the final report could not be submitted as the Karnataka Assembly was dissolved in November 2007. But a synopsis of the Third report was submitted to the then Speaker of the Assembly during November 2007. He had ordered on file to place it before the next assembly session. But that synopsis has not yet been placed in the Assembly, even after seven years of its submission for obvious reasons.

The Joint Legislature Committee also proposed a comprehensive draft **Karnataka Land Grabbers' (Prevention) Bill 2007**, to not only take back the grabbed government land but also punish all those involved in land grabbing. Though the State Legislature passed the Bill unanimously in both the Houses and sent it to the Government of India for H.E.the President's assent more than 7 years back, due to lack of political will of both the State and the Central governments, the bill never became an Act. I myself gave many representations to all the Governors and Chief Ministers since 2007. The *Anti-Land-Grabbing Action Committee* has been

demanding action against land grabbers since 2007. But the powerful land mafia stalled the bill from becoming a law till October 2014. In fact, a 39 day long *Dharna* led by a 97 year old veteran freedom fighter Dr HS Doreswamy from 8th Sep 2014 in front of Town Hall, Bangalore, became instrumental to force the Karnataka government to get the assent from H.E. the President. Unfortunately, I myself had to sit in that *Dharna* along with him and other organisations to put pressure on the government to get H.E.the President's assent for the Bill. This delay itself speaks about the power wielded by the land grabbers even at Government of India level and in particular on your own department. Lastly ,after a long *Dharna*, the Government of Karnataka took an initiative to get H.E the President's assent and now it has become a law.

In 2006-2007, the Committee headed by me, after inspection and investigation, noticed specific instances of land grabbing by very powerful people in the society and included them in its reports. Based on the reports, market value of land grabbed in Bangalore city/Bangalore Urban District itself would exceed Rs. One lakh crores and this should give you an idea about the magnitude of the land grabbing scam and the type of people involved in it. The estimated value of land grabbed in the whole of Karnataka is about 4,00,000 acres and its value is about 2 lakh crore rupees(lowest estimate – more than 2G scam and coalgate scam) .

The cases of land encroachments and land grabbing have to be understood properly and dealt differently. The government land encroachers have not created any fake documents. They are only unauthorized occupants, some encroaching for their livelihood and some for commercial purpose which the government should look into from different angles. Encroachments are very easy to detect and eviction where necessary can be carried out as per established procedure .

Unlike encroachments, the land grabbing cases are difficult to detect as the grabbers become owners of the land with all the necessary documents in their name (though forged)and they are never listed as encroachers. It is very difficult for the government and the public to find out the land grabbers as the creation of false documents have taken place with the active connivance of the officials. The officials involved in fabrication of such documents will never disclose either the extent of land

grabbed or the names of the grabbers. That is why it is a challenge to both the public and the government to find out the cases of land grabbing. Creating false records for government land is a very serious criminal offence which needs to be dealt appropriately. There are thousands of cases where government land has been grabbed by creating false documents with the active connivance of the officials in various departments. The powerful people who have grabbed land include politicians, officers, real estate developers and many other eminent personalities.

One such case of land grabbing (8 acres as per facts unearthed so far) is by the family members of Dr HT Sangliana, an IPS officer of Karnataka Cadre (now retired) when he was in Service. I have taken up this case as it is a glaring instance of criminal misconduct by an All India Service officer, that too by a Police officer widely known for his tough stand against wrongdoers. It is highly shocking that a top Police officer who had the responsibility of getting the offenders punished has himself indulged in a fraud to grab government land in the names of his family members. This particular instance reflects the sordid state of affairs in the State and the central administration. I have already written two letters dated 14/10/2014 and 21/10/2014 with relevant annexures which were self-explanatory to the Hon'ble Chief Minister regarding initiating action against Dr HT Sangliana. The letters and all the relevant documents have been made available at <http://savekarnataka.in>.

Grabbing government land in the name of his family members while in Service is an extremely serious misconduct. The documents available at <http://savekarnataka.in>, reveal that it is impossible for the Government at that point of time to have granted land to his wife who was not at all eligible to get agricultural land. The more glaring fact is the hurriedly fabricated records of grants which reveal that the land was granted to Dr. H.T.Sangliana's daughter who was a minor (aged only 6 years) at the time of the so-called grant. Such fabrication of records could not have taken place without the knowledge and involvement of Dr. H.T.Sangliana, who was a serving Police officer at that time. The suppression of the so-called grant to his wife and minor daughter from DPAR year after year for the next more than 20 years is a serious criminal misconduct. Right action at appropriate point of time would have ensured that Dr HT Sangliana would have been dismissed from Service long

back . Certainly, he could never have occupied the coveted positions he held during his Service as a Police officer subsequent to his family members grabbing the land..

In view of the above, I am writing this letter to you since Dr HT Sangliana indulged in a serious criminal misconduct while he was in Service which is against the All India Service Rules. If Dr. H.T.Sangliana had informed DPAR about the so-called grant and if DPAR failed in its duty to set right such a wrongful grant, then, it only implies that there are many All India Service officers who have grabbed government land in the names of their wives, children, relatives etc and DPAR is instrumental in maintaining secrecy about them and protecting them.

Further, the fact that all relevant records related to the so-called land grant have vanished without a trace from the revenue department clearly indicates that the records now used to claim ownership have all been fabricated. If such a grant has been made to family members of Dr HT Sangliana while he was in Service, then, as per All India Service Rules, he should have taken permission from the Government as the Grant was supposed to have been made within a few years after Dr HT Sangliana joined the Service. I am writing this letter hoping that copies of Annual Property Returns of Dr HT Sangliana given to government of India and relevant documents, if any, related to the so-called grant (permission letter, etc..) would be available with you also.

Under these circumstances, I am writing this letter because your department is not only the custodian of such documents but is also vested with powers and have the responsibility to initiate criminal proceedings against those who misused official position while in Service for personal gains. It appears that as long as Dr HT Sangliana was in Government Service, he successfully suppressed facts about his wife and (minor) daughter getting land granted from the Government. Otherwise, at least now, after the land grabbing by his family members became public, he would have certainly produced authorization from the government to get land granted though totally ineligible (granting of land to a minor is totally illegal). Details exposing the fraud committed by his family members with his support can be made out from fabricated revenue records and facts suppressed and distorted by the wife and daughter of Dr HT Sangliana before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka. Copies of

affidavit filed by Dr HT Sangliana with the Election Commission when he contested Parliamentary election in 2004 and 2009 reveal that Dr HT Sangliana was aware of the land possessed by his wife. All these documents are also available at <http://savekarnataka.in>.

I have been demanding action against land grabbers since 2007. In particular, I staged a protest in front of the concerned Tahasildar's office in 2011 itself for not taking action against Dr HT Sangliana and others involved in land grabbing in that jurisdiction. Dr HT Sangliana, who had kept silent all these years reacted for the first time on 19th October and he himself admitted that one of the names mentioned in the RTC was the name of his daughter (copy of the newspaper report enclosed). The very fact that Dr HT Sangliana has been changing his statements since then to the media gives an impression that he even now thinks that he is capable of misusing the police and revenue department to suppress facts which are impossible to suppress.

The documents pertaining to the land grabbing by the family members of Dr HT Sangliana reveal :

1. The family members were totally ineligible to get government land granted.
2. Assuming that the land was granted as claimed in the year 1979, his daughter was then 6 years old, and granting of land to a minor is illegal.
3. The above two confirm that false documents were created with the connivance of officials of revenue department at a much later date, which explains the non-existence of the original grant records.
4. The members of the family have consistently lied before the Hon'ble High Court to suppress the name of HT Sangliana maintaining total secrecy about the involvement of the officer himself. During 2013, Dr HT Sangliana's wife appealed to the Hon'ble High Court Karnataka regarding the same land case and suppressed the name of her husband and mentioned Ratangalpui D/O Dr.Hmuia in one case and Ratangalpui D/O late Umiram in another case. This shows that these were consciously and deliberately done to maintain secrecy about her husband's name even after more than 42 years of married life.

5. Dr HT Sangliana's daughter mentioned a Court Stay Order in the Pahani document at Column No 11 stating that there is a stay order from the Court, so that nobody would question their title of the land. But, I learnt from reliable sources that there is no such Court Order as the Court Order mentioned there is not at all related to the said land case as any Court would not have entertained a case involving grant of land to a minor. This is another example of how Dr HT Sangliana's family members have misused the name of the judiciary itself for covering up their wrongful acts.

Further, certain other questions emerge: 1. Whether HT Sangliana had taken permission from the competent authority to get agricultural land granted to his family members, in particular to his daughter who was a minor at the time of so-called grant? If not, why? 2. Whether HT Sangliana declared the said land in his Annual Property Returns to the government? If not, why? - Records in your department must contain answers to these questions.

All the above reveal that Dr.HT Sangliana has indulged in serious criminal misconduct calling for appropriate action against him at the earliest. Hence, I request you to initiate immediate criminal proceedings based on documents available in your own department and those given at <http://savekarnataka.in> against Dr HT sangliana as this case is only a tip of the proverbial iceberg. I also request you to take necessary measures to withhold all the financial benefits of Dr.HT Sangliana. I hope your action will be instrumental in catching other officers who have indulged in similar misdeeds. It is the protection given to one another by All India Service officers which bodes that officers involved in land grabbing would be going to any extent to escape punishment even as per the new law. One cannot expect such officers to have moral courage to act against other land grabbers (in particular when former and present Ministers, etc., are involved). As per the Constitution, the intention of selection of All India Service cadre was to provide a steel frame to the administration and to improve the efficiency in all aspects of administration. But today, the steel frame no longer exists and the administration is rapidly collapsing.


In the website of the National Commission of Minorities, at http://ncm.nic.in/H_T_Sangliana.html , it is mentioned that Sri HT Sangliana was the recipient of the two highest Indian Police Service Medals namely - the Meritorious Service Medal & the Distinguished Service Medal. (As per that website, he was Vice Chairperson for the National Commission of Minorities from 15.12.2009 - 4.12.2012). In view of the serious misconduct by Dr. HT. Sangliana while in Service, I request you to take action to strip off all Service Medals/other awards given to him. Incidentally, I am also contemplating to ask the Universities to withdraw the honorary doctorates conferred on him.

As closing eyes to land grabbing by All India Service officers misusing their position comes in the way of getting back the land grabbed by others, it is extremely important to investigate and punish all those other government servants who have grabbed land in a similar manner by misusing their official positions and initiating action on Dr HT Sangliana would be the first step in that direction.

I am hopeful that you would be informing me the action initiated by you on this letter at the earliest. This letter would also be made available at <http://savekarnataka.in>

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,



(A T Ramaswamy)

Convener, Anti Land-Grabbing Action Committee

Shri Anil Goswami, IAS,
Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs,
North Block, Central Secretariat
New Delhi – 110001 (By RPAD and Email to hshso@nic.in)

Copy to:

1. H.E Sri Vajubai Rudabhai Vala , Governor of Karnataka, Raj Bhavan, Bangalore with a request to direct the government to initiate criminal proceedings against Dr. H.T. Sangliana (by email also).

2. **Sri Siddaramaiah**, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore- requesting the Hon'ble Chief Minister to initiate criminal proceedings against Dr. H.T.Sangliana based on my two letters dated 14/10/2014 and 21/10/2014 addressed to him with relevant annexures which were self-explanatory. (by email also)

3. **Hon'ble Justice Shri Y.Bhaskar Rao**, Karnataka Lokayukta, MS Building, Bangalore with a request to use suo-moto powers against officers who are not taking action against land grabbers . (by email also)

4. **Shri Sanjay Kothari, IAS** Secretary, DoPT, North Block, New Delhi . There are many specific cases mentioned in the two Reports indicating the connivance of very senior IAS officers in land grabbing. If DPAR continues to protect the AIS officers involved in landgrabbing, then, the Anti Land Grabbing Action Committee would be approaching DoPT demanding withholding financial benefits of those very senior IAS officers who have retired from Service and sanction to criminally prosecute other senior IAS officers who are still in Service . Hon'ble Law Minister of Karnataka has publicly stated that action would be taken in respect of a specific case mentioned in the report in which very senior IAS officers were involved. It is very relevant to mention here that neither the DPAR nor the Chief Secretary, Karnataka have provided a single information sought by the Anti Land-Grabbing Action Committee so far .(By RPAD & Email to secy_mop@nic.in)

5. **Shri Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS**, Chief Secretary, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, with a request to direct officers in DPAR to furnish all relevant documents to the Ministry of Home Affairs to enable them to initiate proceedings against Dr. H.T.Sangliana for criminal misconduct while he was in Service (by email also).

6. **Dr EV Ramana Reddy, IAS**, Principal Secretary, DPAR, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, with a request to send copies of property returns filed by Dr HT Sangliana from the date of joining his Service till he retired from Service to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and provide me also copies of all those documents at the earliest (by email also).


(A.T.RAMASWAMY)