

## TASLIMA

We, the writers have to protest unitedly against the forced imprisonment of TASLIMA NASRIN, a Bengali writer, in Delhi, in a secret place. Taslima is originally from Bangladesh. She is a powerful writer, fights for women's liberation, criticises fundamentalist Muslims. Bangladesh banished her. She came to Kolkata, then went to Europe. She is internationally known. Very recently, she is selected for the famous Simon De Beauverre Award of France. The Govt. of France proposed to come to Delhi to give the award. But Govt. of India did not agree.

Very strangely, West Bengal Government arranged to publicise her as an anti-Muslim writer and on 22 November 2007, suddenly arrested her from her Kolkata address, took her first to Jaipur, then to Delhi.

Taslina is kept in a secret place in Delhi. She is not allowed to go out. She does not know Delhi, nor can she speak Hindi.

She was very ill. She was hospitalised, but was not properly treated.

Now the State Government of West Bengal with support from GOI, is trying to stop her visa, and banish her from India.

This is an insult to you and me, the people who write.

The criminals, supari-killers, rapists, men who traffic in women, rape children, can stay in Kolkata, but Taslima is going to be thrown out of India.

This is a criminal offence against us, the writers.

**Mahasveta Devi,**  
Kolkata

## BETI BACHAO VARSA

The Jharkhand state has decided to observe 2008 as 'Beti Bachao Varsa' (Save Girl Child Year). Due to large scale infanticide of girl child across the country, now it is a very critical situation. Not only this, it is also alarming for coming years. At present girl child ratio in Jharkhand is little better than other states—941 girls per 1000 males. Whereas national ratio is 933. In the census of 2001 girl child ratio in Jharkhand was much better 980 per one thousand males. According to a report, during the past twenty years the country has lost 100,000 girl children because of female infanticide. Punjab, Hary-ana, Himachal Pradesh and some other states already face big discrimination between male and female ratio. Some strong-willed NGOs have reportedly decided to organise awareness programme throughout the country. Better late than never!

**Goutam Goswami,**  
Dhanbad