



NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF PEOPLES' MOVEMENTS

West Bengal

18 Surya Sen Street. Kolkata-700009

Statement in Protest of Summon Issued to Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray by NIA

Kolkata, September 6, 2020

The West Bengal State Committee of National Alliance of Peoples' Movements (NAPM) vehemently protests against the harassment of Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray, an important member and leader of NAPM in West Bengal by the National Investigating Agency.

We are given to understand that Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray, a scientist and teacher by profession presently working as Associate Professor, Indian Centre for Science Education and Research (ICSER) has been summoned by the NIA to appear before the investigators in Mumbai on September 10, 2020 at 11 am. in connection with the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon case.

Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray has been pro-actively involved with peaceful, democratic people's movements, especially the struggles for the rights of dalits and adivasis. He is an active member of Persecuted Prisoners' Solidarity Committee as well as Joint Action Committee for Social Justice.

At ICSEER, Partho has been carrying out extensive and useful research on molecular biology. His pioneering work on viruses has taken him to the lecture-halls in universities and scientific gatherings across the globe. He is a front-runner in the present battle against Covid-19 and his idea of community participation has been successfully implemented in Nadia district, inviting widespread interest.

The NIA could have contacted Dr. Roy at Kolkata itself through its officers in charge here and the information, if any, available with him. Instead, they have chosen to drag him to Mumbai. The West Bengal State Committee of NAPM condemns in strongest terms the harassment and wastage of time of a person like Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray dedicated to the service of the nation and of the society by summoning Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray to Mumbai in this period of Covid-19 Pandemic.

The NAPM State Committee takes this opportunity to once again denounce the vindictive steps taken by state agencies to harass and intimidate the crusaders of peoples' rights and justice to silence.

- **Withdraw the NIA summon issued to Dr. Partho Sarothi Ray.**
- **Stop attempts to intimidate and harass the crusaders of peoples' rights and justice to silence.**

For NAPM West Bengal –

Pasarul Alam

Pradip Chatterjee

National Conveners