

Update on Fr. Stan Swamy, SJ

20th November 2020

EXCERPTS from a letter and telephonic conversation with Fr. Stan Swamy SJ, from Taloja:

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the solidarity support by so many, for me and my co-accused. I am really grateful. The Prison administration provides breakfast, tea, milk, lunch and dinner. Any additional edibles are to be purchased from the prison canteen, twice a month. Also, newspapers, toiletries, stationary and other essentials can be purchased through the prison canteen. My needs are limited. The Adivasis and the Society of Jesus have taught me to lead a simple life.

I had brought with me a “sipper-tumbler”, to drink tea and water. However, the same was disallowed at the prison gate, on entry on 9 October. Now, I am using a baby-sipper mug, which I purchased through the prison hospital. I have communicated this need to our lawyers. I am still waiting to receive the sipper-tumbler.

Varavara Rao is very sick. Kindly, pray for him. Listening to the life-narratives of the poor prisoners is my joy in Taloja. I see God in their pains and smiles.

Regards and prayers,
Fr. Stan Swamy SJ

From one of Stan’s earlier messages:

“...Stand up and be the voice of the voiceless, no matter what religion, culture, and ethnicity one belongs to... Truth must be spoken, right to dissent must be upheld and justice must reach the doorsteps of the poor. I will continue to be the voice of the voiceless, who cannot raise their voice and defend their rights. People who fight for the rights of the poor and helpless and become their voice, will face all kinds of crisis in their lives. As committed Christians, religious and priests, we need to raise our voice against unjust situation around us... I fear that the pro-tribal activities of mine have angered powerful interests within the establishment...”

- Stan spoke to one of the Jesuits on Wednesday Nov. 18th evening.
- He got permission from prison authorities to receive warm clothes. This is being attended to in Mumbai.
- Social media spread the message that Stan received the sipper-tumbler. This is not true. Till yesterday, Nov. 19th Stan had not received them.
- Some more money has been sent to help Stan to take care of his needs and the needs of two other inmates who are with him.
- His bail application will be filed on 23rd November when the court reopens after Diwali vacation. We will update you with the actual date of hearing for your campaign and lobbying.
- Stan was briefed that his imprisonment and his messages are well utilized to educate and mobilize people to call for “Repeal of UAPA”. Stan was happy about it.
- Every Friday, Jamshedpur Province prepares a prayer in support of Fr. Stan and this is sent to many to be united in prayer (attached). Let me know if you want to have the previous 3 prayers.

You are most welcome to use these information in whatever way you think best.

Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ
20th November 2020