Dear V. Kumary,

Your letter is a great relief for me. Thanks for your recollections of our friendship, you seem to be tied down to your new job too much. My last letter to you was like ages ago. More than six months have passed since the embittered and the brutal judgement and my painful incarceration started. Every day is painful. Every hour is filled with suffering. A 90% disabled person's life in a prison within a prison makes the Infernos of the religions of the world pale out. Solitary life is not in tune with human nature. Homo sapiens can never stop living gregariously. The site of production, agriculture, industry or any other, is the happiest one for gregariousness of humans. Life in solitude is not human.

Six months after I had encountered vibrant human life, you reminded me of our lively literary discussions in the cold winter nights of Delhi. You have asked me in your letter about my present literary engagements in my cage. Even a caged bird can't sing songs. But I am gagged. I send the song of my heart to my sweetheart. I still have feelings, emotions and thoughts along with a language to express my heart's beats to my beloved. But they are banished by the gods. The ban applies to the unborn songs as well. Even my thoughts are proscribed. I sing the songs of silence. I know silence can also speak when it stands before an audience. Now the question for us is: how do we retrieve the songs of silence.

Silence flew as eloquence when Perumal Murugan's voice was axed, and Hansda Sowendra Shekhar's tone was crushed. The Adivasi will never dance. Perumal said he would never write. When Narendra Dabholkar, Pansare and Kalburgi were silenced, silence grew thick like smoke and mist. But when Gauri Lankesh was silenced, it started speaking eloquently. Then the silence thunders: 'I am Gauri Lankesh, I am Dabholkar, I am Pansare, I am Kalburgi.' Where silence is
dreadful, it breaks open into eloquence. Then, the question is how do you trace the footprints of this silence? I am engaged in measuring this silence which also is eloquence. This has become my literary engagement. I am reading silence. I am counting silently all the blank spaces between word and word, and between the lines. I don't leave out the margins from my counting. I need all these spaces to fill my silence. I want to preserve my silence hoping that one day it will explode. My silence is not my pain. I want my silence to be the eloquence of the world outside. I want to spread my silence all over the universe so that it explodes with a bang of eloquence.

My friend, I am measuring silence because I am silenced. Because everyone else is also threatened to be silenced. Many chose silence as golden on their own. I am reading silence. I am wailing silence when the adivasi never dances.

yours,

With love,

Sai Baba

Andes Cell, Central Prison
Nagpur
Dear VK,

I wrote a letter to you on 21 Sept but couldn’t send you. I read your short letter once again. Hence these lines I am adding. You know the ‘embedded’ judgement doesn’t stand for any judicial scrutiny. But I am still languishing in this prison without any relief. Now it is you people in the outside world who have to take the responsibility to prove the illegality of the judgement. I have been endlessly waiting for your decisive act. Meanwhile, I have been suffering from the severe ailments which are life threatening. The pain and suffering I have been going through is unbearable. My ailments now might take a serious turn. They will prove to be damaging my organs beyond treatment.

You have rightly pointed out that my case had to be taken up at various high levels and far and wide. I hope you all collectively and individually will take up my case at all these levels. If you bring out various illegalities of the judgement in a sharp way before the public, governments and international community, it will shock the people for how our lower judiciary is functioning. I would like you all take all the relevant parts of the documents of the case to various jurists, senior lawyers, retired judges. If they comment and bring out the illegalities of the judgement, the public domain will understand and respond. I hope you will do this.

How could such a judgement be handed down without a shred of evidence for the allegations the case made? Why principles of legal criminal jurisprudence not followed in the judgement? What has happened to the judicial system? So far my health issues have been focussed in the media. What is really required is to bring out the glaring illegalities of judgement and the embedded nature of it. Various aspects of it have to be discussed in the public domain. Why are you leaving these illegalities in the dark pages of the...

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files. Why are you leaving all these aspects only for the lawyers to address among themselves? When Supreme Court judgments are discussed and debated in the editorial pages of the newspapers, why this judgement is not discussed? I hope you and other friends think about it.

I saw only one editorial on the judgement. Soon after the judgement was delivered, The Indian Express wrote a sharp editorial condemning the judgement and declaring it as one which doesn't follow the laws of the land. I don't know if any other newspapers wrote editorials.

I don't know how you could follow up any of the things with your busy schedule of your job. Please help Vasundhara meeting various people. Also think of how to support Manjeera's education. She needs a lot of books to be bought apart from the hostel fee and charges. Of course you will give emotional support.

you talk to Prof. Harappal as you have already thought of. He is the Chairperson of the Defence Committee.

My freedom is in your hands-- I mean all of you.

Please do reply.

yours,

with love

[Name]