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INTERNATIONAL

To: The President of India Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi, INDIA

The Prime Minister of India Race Course Road New Delhi, INDIA

The President Sahitya Akademi New Delhi, INDIA

17 October 2015

Dear Sirs

Writers from 150 countries assembled here in Quebec City in Canada for the 81st Congress of PEN International have expressed grave concern over the crisis following the murder of noted scholar and intellectual, M.M. Kalburgi. They have asked me, as President of PEN International, to share with you our strongly-held view that the Indian Government takes immediate steps to protect the rights of everyone, including writers and artists, in the finest traditions of Indian society and culture, and indeed, the letter and spirit of the Indian constitution. For this, the government must reassure the community of writers and artists that its ministers are tolerant of diverse views. Also, it must ensure that the investigations into the murders of M. M. Kalburgi, Narendra Dabholkar and Govind Pansare are conducted fairly and expediently and their killers are brought to justice.

We stand in solidarity with the more than fifty novelists, scholars, poets, and public intellectuals who have returned their awards to the Akademi and admire their courage.

I attach a copy of the statement from the PEN Congress.

Yours sincerely,

John Ralston Saul President, PEN International

President / Président / Presidente John Ralston Saul

International Secretary / Secrétaire International / Secretario Internacional Hori Takeaki

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