

Press Release June 7, 2026

Condemning the Targeted Deplatforming, Police Intimidation, and Financial Harassment of Satirist Shamita Yadav ("The Ranting Gola")

The coordinated campaign to silence political satirist Shamita Yadav represents a terrifying new escalation in the crackdown on free expression, independent comedy, and democratic dissent in India. What began as a digital purge—with the consecutive, arbitrary suspension and deletion of her primary and secondary social media accounts—has now crossed a dangerous threshold into direct physical intimidation and financial harassment by state machinery.

Reports that personnel from the Goa Police arrived at Ms. Yadav's residence demanding she accompany them—without possessing a legal warrant—reveal a blatant disregard for due process. It was only the timely intervention of her legal counsel that prevented a completely unauthorized and unlawful detention.

Simultaneously, the police have targeted the organizers of her live, physical performances, demanding financial records, account details, and payment histories. This is a malicious tactic designed to choke her livelihood, terrorize her professional network, and completely dismantle the ecosystem that allows an independent artist to survive.

Political commentary, humor, and satire are fundamental rights protected under a free society. A democracy cannot claim to be free if its state police force is weaponized to act as an enforcement wing against comedians. The use of strong-arm tactics to ambush a creator at her home and audit her professional associates is a desperate attempt to send a chilling message to the entire creative community: if you laugh at power, we will disrupt your life.

We, the undersigned, strongly condemn this systemic harassment, the abuse of police authority, and the digital censorship of Shamita Yadav. We demand an immediate end to these intimidation tactics, the withdrawal of all unwarranted inquiries into her live programs, and the unconditional restoration of her social media platforms. The state must understand that criticizing power is not a crime, and state overreach will not go unquestioned.

Released by Shabnam Hashmi on behalf of the undersigned – M- 9811807558

SNO	NAME	PROFESSION/ ORG	PLACE
1.	A C Michael	United Christian Forum	New Delhi
2.	Abhijit M	Service	Pune
3.	Ajitha George	Social Activist	Ranchi
4.	Akhileshwari Ramagoud	Journalist and Academic	Hyderabad
5.	Akshat Joshi	Law student	Ghaziabad
6.	Ammu Abraham	Activist on Women's Rights and Civil Liberties	Mumbai
7.	Anchal Gupta	Research Lead (Volunteer Position), Yuva Halla Bol	Delhi

8.	Angela Ingty	ICWM TURA	Tura
9.	Anirban	CFA	Delhi
10.	Anjana Prakash	Lawyer	New Delhi
11.	Annie	Journalist	Chennai
12.	Annie Raja	NFIW	Delhi
13.	Ansari Abdulhakeem A. H	Freelance Peace Educator	Ahmedabad Gujarat
14.	Antony	Civil society	Delhi
15.	Anupama Bhatnagar	Dwarka Collective	New Delhi
16.	Anupama Hegde	Retired IT Professional	Bangalore
17.	Anuradha	Entrepreneur	Noida
18.	Arti Zodpe	Mahila Jagrut Sevabhavi Sanstha (MJSS), Parbhani Social Worker & Community Leader	Parbhani District, Maharashtra
19.	Aruna Gnanadason	Indian Christian Women's Movement	Bangalore
20.	Arunesh Maiyar	LGBTQIA Community issues	Bengaluru
21.	Ashish Joshi	Former Civil Servant & Member CCG	New Delhi
22.	Ashish Paliwal	Artist	Delhi
23.	Ashok Maridas	Samavidanada Haadiyalli	Bangalore, Karnataka, India
24.	Ashok Sharma	Retired Civil Servant	Greater Noida
25.	Atif Nawaz	Gen-z / Software Engineer	Gurgaon
26.	Avinash Kumar	Professor, JNU	Delhi
27.	Balasangameshwara Vollepore	Medical Doctor	Bangalore
28.	Bertram Devadas	Service	Delhi
29.	Bhupender Yadav	Lawyer/Retired teacher	New Delhi
30.	Bijoy Patro	OWSA	Delhi
31.	Cedric Prakash	Human Rights and Peace Activist & Writer	Ahmedabad
32.	Chayanika Shah	Hasrat-e-Zindagi Mamuli	Mumbai
33.	Chidambana	CA	Ahmedabad
34.	Col Pavan Kumar Nair	Veteran	Pune
35.	Deepankar Roy	Self-employed	New Delhi
36.	Dev Desai	ANHAD	Ahmedabad
37.	Dipali	Job	Delhi
38.	Divakar	Activist	Mysore
39.	Dr Barbara Thyab Ali	ADMINISTRATION CHAIRPERSON PUTHIYA PURACHI KAZHAGAM	Chennai
40.	Dr Lubna Sarwath	Indian National Congress, advocate	Hyderabad
41.	Dr Mira Shiva	Public Health Physician	Delhi
42.	Dr Preeti ER	Researcher	Bangalore
43.	Dr Shalu Nigam	Lawyer	Delhi NCR
44.	Dr Subhan Khan Chharora	Ex Chief Scientist CSIR-GOI	Gurugram
45.	Dr. Mohammed Imran Qureshi	Doctor	Pachpahar , Dist.-Jhalawar
46.	Dr. Sanju Sadaneera	Teacher	Sadulpur Churu
47.	Eric Pinto	NAPM	Goa
48.	Farida Khan	Teacher	Delhi

49.	Freny Manecksha	Independent journalist	Thane
50.	Gauhar Raza	Former Prof. AcSIR, Chief Scientist, CSIR, Poet, Filmmaker	Delhi
51.	Gautam Bhattacharya	Professional	Delhi
52.	Gautam Mukhopadhaya	Retired Civil Servant	Delhi
53.	Geeta Seshu	Journalist	Mumbai
54.	Harnam Singh	Journalist	Indore
55.	Harsh Yadav	Retired	Ranchi
56.	Hemalatha. H. M	Retired	Mysuru
57.	Indira	Storyteller	Nagpur
58.	Ira Bhaskar	Retd. Professor, JNU	Delhi
59.	Isha Bhallamudi	Researcher	Mumbai
60.	J Devika	Feminist historian	Trivandrum
61.	Jawhar Sircar	Ex Member of Parliament	Kolkata
62.	Jayasree Subramanian	Academic	Hyderabad
63.	Jisha Surya	Media Professional	Thiruvananthapuram
64.	Joe Athialy	Centre for Financial Accountability	Pune
65.	Julius Tudu	Advocate	Delhi
66.	Jyotsna	Self employed	Udaipur
67.	K. Sajaya	Independent Journalist	Hyderabad
68.	K. Lalita	Independent	HYDERABAD
69.	Kalpana Chakravarthy	Activist	Bangalore
70.	Kaneez Fathima	Civil Rights Activist	Hyderabad
71.	KANNAN SRINIVASAN	Writer	ASTORIA
72.	Karen Gabriel	Professor at St Stephen's College	Delhi
73.	Kavita Srivastava	Human rights worker / PUCL	Jaipur Rajasthan
74.	Komal Saigal	NA	New Delhi
75.	Kumudini	Self employed	Phaphamau
76.	Laxmi Murthy	Free Speech Collective	Bangalore
77.	Leena Dabiru	Social activist	Mumbai
78.	Madhu Bhaduri	Individual	Delhi
79.	Madhuri	PUCL	Bhopal
80.	Madihur Rahman	Teacher (retired)	Aligarh
81.	Malini Subramaniam	Independent Journalist	Jagdalpur
82.	Mandeep Punia	Journalist	Haryana
83.	Mansoor Ahmed	Systems Integrator	Mysuru
84.	Marcia DCunha	TEACHER	Thane, Maharashtra
85.	Maroona Murmu	Teaching	Kolkata
86.	Masoom Rajwani	Writer	Mumbai
87.	Meera Sanghamitra	All India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA)	Telangana
88.	Megha	Mental Health	Bombay
89.	Michael Williams	UCF	New Delhi
90.	Minakshi Singh	Unity in Compassion	Delhi
91.	Mini Mathew	Lawyer	Mumbai
92.	Mondira Jaisimha	Elder Care	Hyderabad

93.	Mustafa Zaidi	Teacher	Aligarh
94.	Nalini Nayak	Retired Associate Professor	New Delhi
95.	Nandini Rao	Independent	India
96.	Navaid Hamid	Secretary, Peoples Integration Council	Delhi
97.	Navrekha Sharma	Government Service(retired)	New Delhi
98.	Nazneen Shaikh	Activist	Maharashtra
99.	Neeraj Malik	University Professor	Noida
100.	Nidhi	Environmentalist	Gurgaon
101.	Nima	Concerned citizen	Mysore
102.	Nirav	Farmer/activist	Porbandar
103.	Pankaj Mehta	Business	Dehradun
104.	Parvin Sinclair	Academic	Delhi
105.	Pradeep E	Individual	Bangaluru
106.	Praveen Dass	Writer	New Delhi
107.	Priti Kharwar	Freelancer	Jaipur
108.	Radha Kumar	Writer	New Delhi
109.	Raghavan Rangarajan	Professor	Ahmedabad
110.	Rajesh	Artist	Delhi
111.	Rajesh Griglani	Indian National Congress	Delhi
112.	Rama Melkote	Prof retd. Osmania University	Telangana, Hyderabad
113.	Ramesh Dixit	Professor (retired) Lucknow University	Lucknow
114.	Rati Rao E	National President, AIPWA	Mysore, Karnataka
115.	Rita Manchanda	Research Consultant, author	Delhi
116.	Ritash	Writer, Co-founder, RANG Foundation	Bengaluru
117.	Ritayan Chaudhuri	Student	Ahmedabad
118.	Roger Samuel	K&S ENTERPRISES	Dwarka New Delhi
119.	Roopa	PUCL, AIPWA	Mysore
120.	Ruchi	NA	Bhubaneshwar
121.	Rukhsana Choudhury	Lawyer	New Delhi
122.	S M Aslam	Engineering	Raichur
123.	Sabah Qadri	Activist	Secunderabad
124.	Sagari R Ramfad	Veterinary Scientist	Hyderabad
125.	Satyavati	Social activist	Hyderabad
126.	Seema Azad	PUCL	Allahabad
127.	Shabnam Hashmi	Social Activist	New Delhi
128.	Shanthy	Independent Social Science Researcher	Mysore
129.	Shanti Paswan	Self Employed	Delhi
130.	Shashi Ashok	Home maker	Bangalore
131.	Shridevi PN	Samatha Vedike	Mysore
132.	Shubha	Writer	Delhi
133.	Shyama Halidar	NA	Faridabad
134.	Smita Gupta	Economist	New Delhi
135.	Subhashini Ali	Political Activist	Kanpur
136.	Subodh Lal	Author, Poet, Social activist.	Noida

137.	Suchetana Ghosh	Teacher	Kolkata
138.	Suja	Journalist	Chennai
139.	Sujata Gothoskar	Researcher	Mumbai
140.	Sumit Arora	Physician	Delhi
141.	Suresh K Goel	CCG	Delhi NCR
142.	Susai Sebastian	Retired	Delhi
143.	Susie Tharu	Housewife	Hyderabad
144.	Tushar A. Gandhi	Mahatma Gandhi Foundation	Mumbai
145.	Vani Subramanian	Feminist Activist and Filmmaker	New Delhi
146.	Vanita Mukherjee	ALIFA - All India Feminist Alliance	New Delhi
147.	Veena Shatrugna	Independent Researcher	Bengaluru
148.	Vertika Mani	Org. Secretary, PUCL , advocate	Delhi
149.	Vijay Bharatiya	Consultant	Ahmedabad
150.	Vikram Kaushik	Retired professional	Mumbai

