

Dear Friends,

Marking the retirement of Justice A.P. Shah as Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and recognizing his judicial legacy characterized by his consistent sympathy for the rights of the poor, the weak and the marginalized, we, an umbrella of 15 human rights organizations, people's movements and academic/cultural institutions (listed below) are organizing a Panel address on the issue of **Sensitizing the Judiciary to the Rights of the Poor – The Judicial Legacy of Justice A.P. Shah.**

The Panel address will be held on the **6<sup>th</sup> of April 2010 at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (Main Auditorium), Teen Murti House, New Delhi from 4:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.** We will be beginning with tea followed by the panel address.

Our eminent **panelists** for the day, who have been involved in and have been speaking out on these issues include, Mr. Anil Divan (Senior Advocate), Mr. Shanti Bhushan (Senior Advocate), Mr. Fali Nariman (Senior Advocate), Swami Agnivesh (Human Rights Activist), Prof. Upendra Baxi (former VC, Delhi University), Mr. Shekhar Singh (RTI Activist), Ms. Madhu Kishwar (Prof. CSDS and founder Manushi), Prof. Babu Mathew (Director, Action Aid), Mr. Miloon Kothari (Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing), Mr. Prashant Bhushan (Advocate) and Mr. Dunu Roy (Director , Hazard Centre).

Justice Shah's retirement from the judiciary is an important occasion for us to focus on the role of the judiciary as protectors of the rights of the weak and marginalized section of Indian society. We wish and hope his judgments and legacy will become a beacon for the judiciary in this country to emulate so that we can again reclaim this republic for the common people of this country.

Please find attached the **background paper** for the panel address. We invite you to attend this important event along with relevant members from your organizations. Kindly forward this invitation to your networks of friends and organisations. Please send in your confirmations by email or call us at (0)9958146804.

Best regards,

Mr. Harsh Mander (*Aman Biradari*)

Swami Agnivesh (*Bandhua Mukti Morcha*)

Mr. Prashant Bhushan (*Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reform*)

Mr. Arvind Kejriwal (*Parivartan*)

Ms. Madhu Kishwar (*Manushi Sangathan*)

Mr. Ramendra (*Delhi Shramik Sangathan*)

Ms. Medha Patkar & Mr. Rajendra Ravi (*National Alliance of People's Movements*)

Prof Mridula Mukherjee (*Nehru Memorial Museum and Library*)

Mr. Shekhar Singh (*National Campaign for People's Right to Information*)

Ms. Anjali Gopalan (*Naz Foundation, India Trust*)

Mr. Rakesh Agarwal (*Nyaybhoomi*)

Mr. Bhupendra Singh Rawat (*Jan Sangharsh Vahini*)

Mr. Subhash Bhatnagar (*Sajha Manch*)

Amita Joseph, Miloon Kothari & Indu Prakash Singh (*Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Liye*)

Ms. Paramjit Kaur (*Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan*)