

An Open Letter to the Police Commissioner, Delhi, regarding the flawed investigation into the Delhi riots, February 2020

**Shri S.N.Shrivastava, IPS
Commissioner of Police, Delhi
cp.snsshrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in**

Dear Shri Shrivastava,

We, the undersigned, are retired officers of the Indian Police Service and belong to a larger group of retired officers belonging to different services and known as Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG). Mr Julio Ribeiro is a living legend of an IPS officer (as one publication put it) and is one of the most valued members of the CCG. We would like to endorse the letter he has written to you regarding the flawed investigation into the Delhi riots.

In addition, we would like to say that it indeed is a sad day in the history of Indian police that investigations and challans submitted in the court by Delhi Police in connection with riots of this year are widely believed to be partisan and politically motivated. It pains all those police officers, serving as well as retired, who believe in upholding the rule of law and our Constitution.

We were sad to note that one of your Special Commissioners had tried to influence investigations claiming resentment among Hindus over the arrest of some rioters belonging to their community. Such a majoritarian attitude in the police leadership leads to a travesty of justice for the victims of violence and their family members belonging to minority communities. This would further mean that real culprits of the violence belonging to majority community are likely to go scot free.

What pains us more is implicating all those who spoke and joined protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). They were simply exercising their fundamental rights of freedom of speech and peaceful protests as guaranteed by the Constitution. Basing investigations on "disclosures" without concrete evidence violates all principles of fair investigation. While implicating leaders and activists, who expressed their views against CAA, all those who instigated violence and are associated with the ruling party have been let off the hook.

Such investigation will only make people lose faith in democracy, justice, fairness and the Constitution. A dangerous thought that may ultimately shake the pillars of an orderly society and lead to breakdown of law and order.

We would, therefore, earnestly request you for reinvestigation of all riot cases fairly and without any bias based on sound principles of criminal investigations to provide justice to the victims and their families and for upholding the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

	Name	Service	Last post/designation before retirement
1.	Shafi Alam	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General, National Crime Records Bureau, GoI
2.	K. Saleem Ali	IPS (Retd.)	Former Special Director, CBI, GoI
3.	Mohinderpal Aulakh	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police (Jails), Govt. of Punjab
4.	A.S. Dulat	IPS (Retd.)	Former OSD on Kashmir, Prime Minister's Office, GoI
5.	Aloke B. Lal	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General (Prosecution), Govt. of Uttarakhand
6.	Amitabh Mathur	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director, Aviation Research Centre and Former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, GoI
7.	Avinash Mohananey	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police, Govt. of Sikkim
8.	P.G.J. Nampoothiri	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police, Govt. of Gujarat
9.	A.K. Samanta	IPS (Retd.)	Former Director General of Police (Intelligence), Govt. of West Bengal