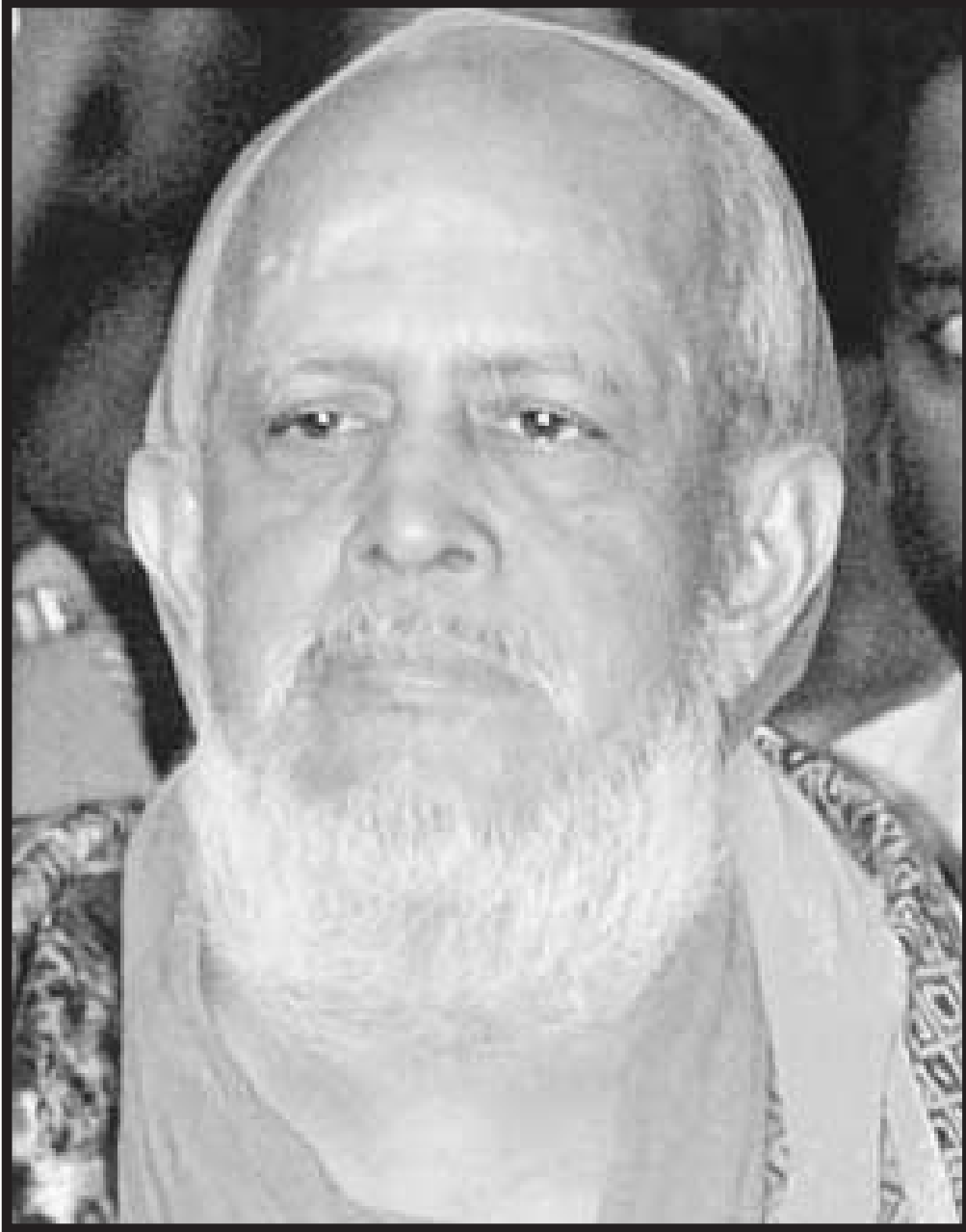


# Open Letter to the High Commissioner of India (Canada) and the Government of India



As concerned Hindus living in Canada, we are writing to express our disgust with the governments of both the State of Tamil Nadu and the Congress-led, national government for the insensitive, politically motivated arrest of revered Hindu spiritual leader, The Sankaracharya of Kanchi.

**Seven issues of particular concern are as follows:**

1. The unprecedented arrest of the Sankaracharya on the holy occasion of Deepavali, from within the sanctity of a Hindu temple, and during the conduct of holy rituals;
2. The use of a team of fully armed police commandos, in a gratuitous and shameless show of State power, to carry out the arrest of a leading religious leader known for his peaceful character.
3. The incarceration of the Sankaracharya, a spiritual pontiff of a 2500+ year old religious seat with millions of followers, in a maximum security prison in close proximity to terrorists and murderers.
4. The denial of immediate and unrestricted access to counsel, and unwarranted delays in a bail hearing for the Sankaracharya.
5. That Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party leaders and other public figures openly celebrated the arrest by passing out sweets and lighting fire crackers.
6. That the Tamil Nadu State government and the Congress-led federal government of India continue to perpetrate, perpetuate and tolerate injustices done to the majority Hindu community. This discriminatory stance stands in contrast to the liberal treatment afforded to avowedly anti-national elements and declared criminals belonging to minority communities, including accused murderers such as cabinet minister Taslimuddin, who are permitted to violate the law with impunity.
7. The consistent and continuous interference by the Tamil Nadu government and the Congress-led national government in the internal affairs of Hindu community and its leading religious institutions, showing utter contempt for the secular traditions and underpinnings of the Indian constitution, and in contrast to the government's respect for the independence and integrity of leading minority religious institutions such as the Catholic Church and the Muslim community in India.

We urge the Government of India to intervene on behalf of all Indians, and the Hindu community in particular, to bring about a fair and balanced resolution of this matter.

Hindus in Canada are outraged at the obviously discriminatory attitude and political motivations behind this arrest, and the underhanded manner in which it was prosecuted.

We are no longer willing to tolerate the systematic bigotry towards Hinduism prevalent both within the Tamil Nadu government as well as the broader Dravidian movement.

We call upon all right thinking individuals and organizations to use their resources and energies to bring this abuse of fundamental human rights and religious equality to the attention of the world community.

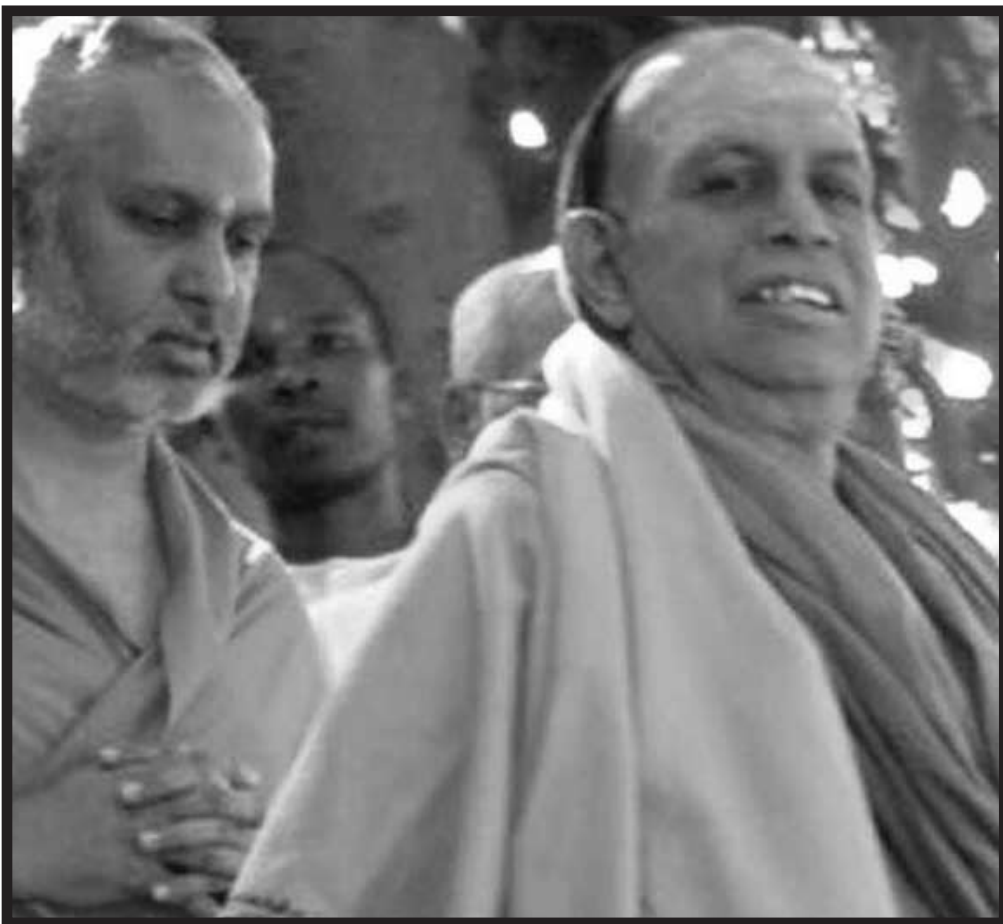
We demand that the Government of India act responsibly to avoid embarrassment on the world stage and in Canada by restoring the proper rule of law and by ensuring the equal application of justice to all.

*Yours faithfully,*

Hindu Congress of Canada

www.hccanada.com  
416-857-3537

*(Issued and paid for by the Hindu Congress of Canada)*



**Jayendra Saraswathi, who has been charged with murdering a temple official, is one of Hinduism's holiest priests and a revered figure among worshippers in southern India.**