

"His Holiness says all this is fabricated"

Today the prosecution has claimed that His Holiness has confessed and they have it on video tape. The fact is that this is not true.

The so-called claim of confession of His Holiness, by the TN Government in the High Court, is only the statement of the senior counsel during the proceedings and is not found in the counter affidavit filed by the government in the high court today.

Smt. Shushma Swaraj, former Union Minister met His Holiness this afternoon. In a statement to the press soon after the meeting, she referred to her chat with His Holiness. She was extremely disturbed to see a person of his eminence in such a stage. On her enquiry about his alleged confession, His Holiness categorically denied having made any confession. He also told her that all this was fabricated. Several Indian TV channels have telecast Ms Swaraj's statement tonight. "It is a total lie and completely baseless" she said. She appealed to the media to be responsible about such reporting.

Please convey this emphatically to any one who enquires. In addition, the police has resorted to slander with a view to mislead issues.

Please remember that we are fighting an extra-ordinary war and our biggest asset, are our faith and conviction. Every attempt is being made, to erode this.

We must steel ourselves against such vicious rumours and canards. Do not expect a fair battle and do not be surprised if we have to face even more unpalatable stuff.

Even the prosecution knows fully well that what they claim to have on tape is of no evidentiary value in the court of law. On the other hand, it is hard-sell copy for the media and a weapon to destroy His Holiness's reputation and bring down the stature of the Mutt in the eyes of millions of its supporters and devotees.

Remember that two people who were part of the 'clinging evidence' of the prosecution retracted their statements. They clearly declared that it was under extreme physical

torture and abuse that they had implicated His Holiness in the case.

Given this background, it is quite conceivable that He was subjected mental torture and psychological pressure, and they must have twisted what he said out of context. "It is tantamount to evidence but not admissible in court" is the way it is described!

Since they don't seem to have any more meat in their 'clinching evidence', the attempt is to convict him in the media through such sensational accusations rather than fight for justice in the court of law.

So don't lose heart. Don't let such propaganda get the better of us.