Amit Shah, Union Home Minister of India

Ministry of Home Affairs,

North Block, New Delhi, 110001, India

Date

**Case of Umar Khalid**

Dear Mr Amit Shah

I am writing to express my concern at the continuing detention of Umar Khalid in Tihar jail, New Delhi. His arrest in September 2020 appears to have been the result of his exercising his constitutional right to freedom of expression, as it followed his speeches at peaceful protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in late 2019. Opposition to this discriminatory Act was widespread amongst both Muslims and non-Muslims and in an open, democratic society, such opposition should be allowed as a normal part of a healthy democracy. Umar Khalid has now been held without trial or properly evidenced charges for over three years, with all applications for bail refused. This goes against India’s own constitution.

I therefore urge you to:

* Release Umar Khalid from jail immediately and unconditionally
* Pending his release, allow him prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care and other basic necessities on request
* Ensure that other human rights activists arrested for peacefully protesting against the CAA are also immediately released
* Cease using the repressive Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to clamp down on peaceful protest and to harass, intimidate and detain citizens for exercising their right to free speech

Thank you for your consideration