

Collective cry for justice in support of Rama Kankonkar

Activists hail arrested crusader activist as true Goan who was denied justice because he fought for Goa

Team Herald

PANJIM: Rallying behind activist Rama Kankonkar, arrested for his remarks against Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, activists and eminent personalities on Saturday warned of a much bigger and vocal fight against the "misrule" of the State government in the near future and vowed to continue their fight for justice for all Goans.

Activists, who gathered at the Panjim Police Station sought answers from the police as there was no information forthcoming on the whereabouts and well-being of Kankonkar after his arrest. He was given conditional bail late on Saturday evening. Activist Adv Pratima Coutinho said, "Kankonkar's arrest is one that was properly planned on Friday and Saturday to ensure that his release is delayed. No one can suppress the voices of people in a democracy and we will continue to fight for justice for all Goans."

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Father calls for divine help in fight for Rama



An emotional Gurudas Kankonkar cries in despair

PANJIM: As images of his father Gurudas Kankonkar crying in despair started doing the rounds on social media, Rama Kankonkar's arrest for his alleged derogatory and threatening statement against Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has been swiftly condemned by Opposition leaders, who have accused the government of stifling dissent through heavy-handed tactics. Demonstrations in support of Kankonkar gathered

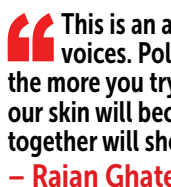
"Prabhu Ram, if you are there, you will stand for this Rama. You will stand for my Rama and put better sense in the minds of those who are troubling him"
– Gurudas Kankonkar, Rama's father

outside the Panjim Police Station, where his family and activists camped throughout the day on Saturday.

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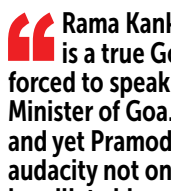
"Kankonkar's arrest is one that was properly planned on Friday and Saturday to ensure that his release is delayed. No one can suppress the voices of people in a democracy and we will continue to fight for justice for all Goans"
– Adv Pratima Coutinho, activist



"This is an attempt to scuttle our voices. Politicians should know that the more you try to stop us, the thicker our skin will become. Activists and Goans together will show what they can do"
– Rajan Ghate, another activist



"Rama is a dedicated activist who stood up against the wrongdoings of the government and authorities. Goa would have been in ruins without the efforts of such activists. If the government believes that arresting Rama will silence others, they are deeply mistaken. The issue will be raised in Parliament"
– Capt Viriato Fernandes, South Goa MP



"Rama Kankonkar is not a criminal. He is a true Goan, denied justice and forced to speak out against the Chief Minister of Goa. Goa is not a monarchy, and yet Pramod Sawant's police had the audacity not only to arrest him, but also to humiliate him and his community publicly"
– Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party supremo and Fatorda MLA

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