

Indian Left: Veteran Journalist Praful Bidwai Is No More

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Praful Bidwai. Photo: Heinrich Boll Stiftug

New Delhi: The well-known journalist and commentator Praful Bidwai – whose syndicated columns on politics, foreign policy, the environment and political economy provided a critical, left-wing perspective on national and international developments for over four decades – passed away in Amsterdam on Monday night, *The Wire* has learned.

Bidwai, who was 65, died after choking on his food, a close friend of his said. He was in the Dutch capital for a conference.

He wrote regularly for magazines and newspapers across India and the world, besides being an anti-nuclear activist and campaigner. He was a founding member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Peace, the group set up after the 1998 Pokhran tests.

Praful Bidwai was the author of several books, including the 1999 *South Asia on a Short Fuse. Nuclear Politics and the Future of Global Disarmament*, co-authored with the political scientist and activist Achin Vanaik, and the *Politics of Climate Change and Global Crisis*. Bidwai's latest book on the Indian Left was due to be released By HarperCollins later this year. "Praful was a committed, courageous and articulate voice on the Left," Vanaik told *The Wire*, and had "an extraordinary command over a vast range of subjects."

Born in Nagpur, Bidwai worked in the *Times of India* for many years as a Senior Assistant Editor before embarking on a freelance career that made his byline a household name across India. He wrote a regular column for *Frontline* and *Hindustan Times* for several years.

Bidwai had been a Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Social Development, New Delhi, and also a Senior Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. He had also served as a member of the Indian Council for Social Science Research, the Central Advisory Board on Education, and the National Book Trust.

He was a long-time Fellow of the Transnational Institute, the Amsterdam-based organisation of international scholar-activists including Susan George and Walden Bello.

A bachelor, he is survived by two sisters.

THE WIRE STAFF on 24/06/2015

P.S.

* <http://thewire.in/2015/06/24/veteran-journalist-praful-bidwai-is-no-more/>