

Five news reports

Taslima Nareen living in a state of virtual of house arrest - cant return to Calcutta

Govt's of India and West Bengal must ensure her return to Calcutta

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TASLIMA FRETS IN 'HOUSE ARREST'

[0109 hrs IST, Times News Network & Agencies]

The Times of India, 21 Dec 2007

KOLKATA: The Centre has told controversial Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen that she will have to stay put where she is and would not be allowed to return to Kolkata under any circumstances.

Nasreen has been living in an undisclosed location in the National Capital Region under heavy security since she was hounded out of Kolkata a month ago.

The 46-year-old author, who has been living in exile after death threats to her in Bangladesh, said she was told by a senior MEA official that she would also not be allowed to come out in public or meet people — restrictions she described as "house arrest". "If I live in India, I will not be allowed outside. I will not be allowed to meet any friend. I will have to live this way in India and it must not be in Kolkata," she said, quoting the government decision as conveyed by the official. Nasreen said she told the official, "I am not a criminal."

The writer, who spent a night in Jaipur and a week in Rajasthan House after virtually being thrown out of Kolkata, said she has been told she would not be able to lead a normal life in Delhi.

"I had told the official I should be allowed to lead a normal life at least in Delhi," said Nasreen, who recently offered to delete some controversial portions from her novel

'Dwikhandita' to pacify those opposed to her writings.

"The officials told me if I stay in India, I will have to stay under house arrest," Nasreen told TOI , adding, "I don't have any wish to leave India." The author said she had hardly any option now but to agree to MEA's terms.

TASLIMA'S APPEAL: 'PLEASE LET ME LIVE IN KOLKATA'

Suhasini Haidar / CNN-IBN

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TASLIMA GETS ULTIMATUM: The Centre sent a representative to tell Taslima to leave India.

The controversial writer says she did not leave Bengal on her own accord.

New Delhi: Controversial Bangladeshi author, Taslima Nasreen has nowhere to go and the Indian Government went about in a convoluted way to tell her to leave the country.

Taslima was shifted out of Kolkata after outbreak of large-scale violence in the city during a 'shutdown' called by a Muslim outfit - All India Minority Forum - for cancelling her visa, which was extended by the Government till February 17 next.

She has angered conservative Muslims by her writing and fled her homeland in 1994 after radical Muslims demanded her execution. She was attacked by activists of Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen at a book release function on August 9 this year in Hyderabad.

In an exclusive telephone conversation with CNN-IBN this is what she had to say.

Taslima Nasreen: The Central Government came to me and told me that I will not be able to go back to Kolkata now. When I asked the person who came to deliver the news when will I be able to go back to Kolkata, he said that he did not know.

Then I asked him whether I could live a normal life in Delhi if I cannot live in Kolkata and he said that I would not be able to lead a normal life in Delhi either.

I hope the Government will be able to reconsider the issue and I will be able to go back to Kolkata. If I can have security in Kolkata, then I can live there.

However, if I cannot go back to Kolkata, then I want to have a normal life in Delhi. I know that the people who live in Kolkata want me to come back and live there.

I love Kolkata and I have got support, solidarity and sympathy from the people there. I know that nothing would happen if I go back to the city and start living there. I have a home there and I am missing my home.

I am hoping that the Government will rethink this and let me go back to my home and will allow me to have a normal life there.

No writer likes to censor his or her work and I was forced to delete certain paragraphs of my work. I hope that nobody will be angry with me and that I will be able to live a peaceful life in Kolkata.

TASLIMA SPEAKING TO CNN-IBN VIDEO

<http://www.ibnlive.com/videos/54629/taslimas-appeal-please-let-me-live-in-kolkata.html>

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