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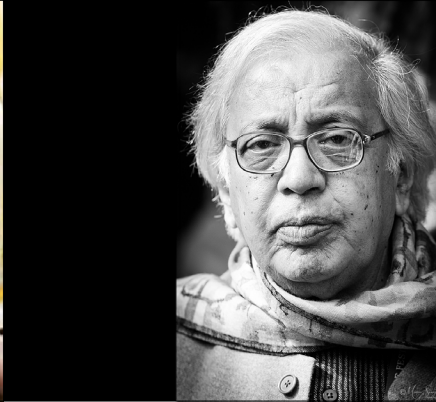
MISSISSAUGA

Centre for South Asian Civilizations

Shattering the Silence

India's Authors Protest Recent Murders

An Evening with Ashok Vajpeyi



The last several months have witnessed the murders of outspoken Indian activists such as Govind Pansare and Malleshappa Kalburgi, and horrifying attacks on Christian, Muslim and other minority communities in India. Most recently, on September 28, 2015, in a village not far from Delhi, an angry mob murdered 52-year-old Mohammad Akhlaq Saifi. It acted on a false rumor spread at the village temple that Saifi had eaten beef.

Dismayed by what he perceives to be the deafening silence and inaction of the government in the face of these atrocities, 74-year-old Ashok Vajpeyi, one of India's most acclaimed literary figures, joined other celebrated authors in protest by returning his award from India's National Academy of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi. To date, in a massive show of solidarity, dozens of members of this elite body have returned their prizes. Mr. Vajpeyi will speak publicly on what has motivated him and others to take a stand. The talk will be followed by an interview, questions from the audience, and a public reception with tea, coffee and hors d'oeuvres. This is an event not to be missed.

We are extremely worried at the way the India polity is moving. All spaces of liberal values and thought, all locations of dissent and dialogue, all attempts at sanity and mutual trust are under assault almost on a daily basis. All kinds and forms of violence, whether religious and communal, consumerist and globalising, caste-based and cultural, social and domestic, are on the upswing.

-Ashok Vajpeyi, "Why We Returned Sahitya Akademi Awards,"
The Hindu, October 10, 2015.

Date and Time:

6:00 PM

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Venue:

Instructional Centre Room 120
University of Toronto Mississauga
3359 Mississauga Road
Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6
Free parking provided in lot #9
Click [here](#) for direction and maps.

Tickets:

Tickets are free, but seats are limited. Please book yours right away by clicking the Eventbrite logo below.



For More Information:

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