

Mr. Amit Shah
Union Home Minister of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi - 110001
India

Groningen, 2023

Dear Union Home Minister,

I am deeply concerned for Umar Khalid, a young Muslim student activist and human rights defender, who was arrested on 13 September 2020. Authorities accused him of inciting communal violence through speeches. In reality, he was peacefully protesting the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act. Khalid was charged under multiple provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the draconian anti-terror legislation the Unlawful (Activities) Prevention Act. He has remained imprisoned for over three years without trial.

I urge you to ensure that Umar Khalid is immediately and unconditionally released from jail. Pending his release, allow him prompt, regular and unrestricted access to medical care and other basic necessities.

Additionally, I urge you to ensure that all other human rights defenders and activists who have been arrested for peacefully protesting the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act are also immediately released.

Yours sincerely,