

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TRANSPARENCY INDIA CONDEMNS ATTACK ON LOKAYUKTA, KARNATAKA**

**March 7, 2018**

Transparency International India is a leading non political, independent, non-governmental anti-corruption organization of India. TII has extensive expertise and understanding of issues of corruption in India.

The lokayukta of Karnataka, Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty, was stabbed multiple times in his office in Bangalore today afternoon.

Chairman of Transparency International India, Shri S R Wadhwa former Chief Commissioner of Income-Tax and Chairman, Income Tax Settlement Commission said that “the reported attack on Lokayukta of Karnataka, today during the course of his work, is deplorable and to be utterly condemned.” Personal attacks on any anti-corruption stakeholders are highly objectionable and should be rejected completely.

It was reported that Karnataka's apex anti-corruption official, Lokayukta, has been assaulted at his office in Bengaluru today. Justice P Vishwanatha Shetty is hospitalized in ICU after he was stabbed repeatedly by Tejas Sharma, a suspended bus conductor.

“Justice P Vishwanatha Shetty as Lokayukta was too easily accessible to the people. The physical attack on Judge Shetty today is an affront to justice. It is a new low, and one that I hope will never be repeated.” TII Chair said;

The incident highlights the urgent need of appropriate facilities and security review at important places. The crime need thorough & quick investigation into the circumstances under which Lokayukta was attacked in his office.

**For Further information, please contact:**

(Local contact person based at Bengaluru)

**Shri M. N. Krishnamurthy, (IPS) Retd.**

Vice-Chairperson

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