

NORTH EAST INDIA REGIONAL BISHOP'S COUNCIL (NEIRBC)

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Fr. Stan Swamy

With a deep sense of pain and anguish we mourn the death of a Jesuit priest, Fr. Stanislaus Lourdu Swamy (Stan Swamy) 84, a defender of the human rights of the oppressed. He passed away on Monday, 5th July afternoon at 1:30 pm, in Mumbai's Holy Family Hospital. Swamy was suffering from various ailments and was shifted out of the Taloja central prison to the hospital over a month ago. Since then, Swamy has been in and out of the intensive care unit (ICU). The hospital told the high court today that Swamy died following a cardiac arrest he suffered on July 4. He was put on a ventilator support and was unconscious ever since.

Fr. Stan Swamy was arrested on October 8th last year for his alleged involvement in the Elgar Parishad case. He was the 16th person to be arrested in the case and also the oldest. At the time of his arrest, he was frail and ailing, and had an advanced stage of Parkinson's disease.

As we sadly mourn his death, **I propose that all our institutions in the Northeast may declare 6th July 2021 as a day of prayer and conduct prayer services to engender peace and justice, and invoke God's blessing on our nation.** Fr. Stan Swamy's death stands as a stark reminder for each one of us to live our prophetic call of peace, justice and brotherly love.

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+John Moolachira
Archbishop of Guwahati &
President, North East India Bishops Council

