



I thank Cartoonists Rights Network International for selecting me as one of the winners of the “Award for Courage in Editorial Cartooning” this year. It is a great honor for me to receive this award, and I still cannot believe it. I specially thank Dr. Robert Russell for his concern and support. After I came in contact with Bro, I started feeling safer and more confident. It is great to know that there is an organization that is constantly working to protect the rights of freedom of speech of the cartoonists. Before that, I was fighting alone with a handful of my supporters on social media, and it was not an easy fight. I am just an everywoman like my cartoon character, who dared do make fun of a Godman who is followed by millions.

When I started getting threats from that Godman’s followers, it became like a kind of routine. They were calling us non-stop from the different parts of the country, and threatening to kill me and my husband. They were writing abuses of all kinds on my timeline, and sending threats in my Inbox. We were so scared that we were not able to sleep at night and could not step out from our home. Even our family and friends were suggesting not to mess with such influential people. We had to make a decision, and we decided not to bend down before these goons.

There were many young boys and girls who were sending me messages that they are proud of me, and they are inspired by my work and attitude. I decided not to let them down. I decided to make cartoons about Guru Asaram until his followers are tired of abusing and threatening me.

When I didn’t stop, they hacked my Facebook and email accounts and stole vital information about me, and threatened to misuse it if I would not put my cartoon page down. That is the time when I approached cyber crime cell in my city and the local police station.

That time was very difficult, and it still terrifies me when I remember those days.

Thanks to Mr. Daniel Murphy, Mr. Tjeerd Royaards, Mr. Wes Tyrell, and Ms. Maren Williams of CBLDF who helped me by spreading the news of these threats. I sincerely thank all of you for your support, encouragement and concern! I also thank all of my friends on social media who supported me in the difficult time. I once again thank all the members of Cartoonists Rights Network International and The Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. Thanks for inviting me to such a great event. I really had a great time at Satire Fest and consider myself lucky that I got a chance to participate in it and to meet the world’s best talent in the world of cartoons. I learned a lot and I hope that it will reflect in my work. My special thanks to Mr. Joel Pett, Mr. Chris Bliss, and Ms. Carol Lange for making me so comfortable in a new country. They are most hospitable people, I have ever met. Thanks for your care and concern. Thanks from the depth of my heart! Thank you all!