

The Vice Chancellor

JNU

Sub: Regarding the call of Council members for seeking some clarification

17 Feb, 2016

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned council members have been called before an enquiry committee today at 3pm for seeking some clarification regarding the incident that took place on 9th February 2016. Our position on this committee is as follows:

- To begin with, the JNU administration has taken the completely undemocratic step of debarring 8 students from all academic activity, without ANY enquiry or any semblance of a neutral process. Suspension of students of a particular ideological leaning without any due process is completely unacceptable, and it raises questions about the neutrality of the process that is to take place.
- No enquiry can take place in the atmosphere of fear that has been created on the campus. Any institutional process of enquiry has to be conducted in an atmosphere that ensures safety and dignity for the students. The students cannot present their case in a situation where they have been already branded and demonised. The suspension of the students without due process is a violation of the principles of natural justice.
- As per norms, all matters related to students have to be dealt with at the level of the Proctor office. However, this committee completely bypasses the entire IHA, and the criterion for composition of the committee is not clear.
- We also have several serious concerns regarding the constitution of the committee. For instance, one of the members of the committee is a professor who was a well-known and well-recognized spokesperson and supporter of the Youth for Equality (YFE). The YFE (which, as you know, campaigned against reservations and affirmative action for OBCs) is a close associate of the ABVP and this is common knowledge. We believe that NO serious, fair and just enquiry can take place with the presence of such biased members. Further, since many of the students summoned belong to marginalized communities such as SC, OBC, etc., it is unfair that the committee does not have representation from the marginalised communities.
- Another member of the committee served as a Chief Proctor earlier. During his tenure there were repeated students protests against the biased approach of the Proctor towards the numerous acts of violence by ABVP in the campus.
- Finally, unilateral action against the students belonging to rival groups of ABVP raises serious doubts about the intentions of the committee. Specifically, the acts of violence by ABVP members on the 9th of February, the unprovoked attack on Rajya Sabha MP, Anand Sharma on 13th of February – all these aspects do not even figure in the concerns of the administration. We are surprised that actual violence is not even being investigated into, simply because the persons involved belong to the student wing of RSS.

It is also notable that the terms of reference of the enquiry fail to include the following:

- The role of ABVP in investigating violence and intimidating students on several occasions.
- How and why was the Delhi Police called into JNU? Who gave permission for them to enter the campus?
- In the aftermath of the 9th February incident, how did the Delhi Police act without any warrants? The JNUSU President was picked up and arrested by people in civil clothes, raids

...ere conducted in hostels – ALL without warrants. Who is responsible for such police action without warrant in the campus?

...the serious concerns we have with the composition and the ambit of the enquiry, the student community refuses to participate in this enquiry committee, until the demand to expand this committee is met and the suspension order of eight students is revoked and the intimidation of political activists, who differ with ABVP, is ended.

Sincerely

Shehla Rashid Shora, Vice President JNUSU

Satarupa Chakraborty, Convenor, SSS

Amal P.P., Convenor, SIS

Elora Chakraborty, Councillor, SSS

Twinkle Siwach, Councillor, SSS

Omprakash Mahato, Councillor, SSS

M. Qadeer, Councillor, SSS

Gargi Adhikari, Councillor, SIS

Mukesh Kulariya, Councillor, SAA

Kuldeep, Councillor, CSLG

Mrityunjay, Councillor, SLS

Pratyush, Councillor, SPS

Kaushik, Councillor, SLL&CS

Karishma, Councillor, SLL&CS

Balaji, Councillor, SIS

Breeti Dhowre Convenor, SSS

Dileep, Councillor, SL

Chetan, Councillor, SL - Chetan

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