

To Chairperson,
Delhi Commission for Women, Delhi.

12/10/2017

Sub: Sexual Harassment and moral policing in the campus by Buddha Singh.

Ma'am,

We the student community expect action from your side to be taken at the way Buddha Singh, the Associate Dean, Jawaharlal Nehru University, is conducting the search on our hostels. The manner in which these regressive searches of hostel rooms are done, in clear violation of our privacy and it comes under the ambit of sexual harassment and against our bodily integrity, which as citizens of this country we are entitled to.

Hostel searches have until now been conducted by the warden of each hostel when they see it fit and has been to largely done to curtail the stay of people from outside the University without filling up the requisite guest forms. Unfortunately, the Associate Dean Mr Buddha Singh has taken it up as his sole responsibility and, along with a few security guards, has barged into hostel rooms at odd hours in the midnight from last week, looked under our beds and almirahs, all the while ill-treating and abusing students. He also clicked the pictures of girl students of the campus. In another gross abuse of power, he also forced students to state their phone numbers and email ids and, in some cases, even called their parents. As students living in a hostel, we realise that there will be reasonable restrictions that will be enforced to ensure congenial and sustainable living conditions. But we have not surrendered our rights to dignity, privacy and freedom and no one should have the right to sexually harass us. Such patriarchal attitudes of calling parents, noting down phone numbers, clicking photos and in general intruding on our private spaces are enraging and worthy of absolute condemnation.

This is however not the worst of it, unfortunately. The administration has also reported false information to media and they reported in such a manner, which creates a bad image about the girl students as well university in general among the outside people. This is a gross misrepresentation. By showing this as a 'raid' that has uncovered 'illegal' 'criminal' activities, the JNU administration has made it dangerous for students to work in the wider world with the burden of such misogynist stereotypes. Such maligning also has very real consequences for young men and women, who may face resistance from families in pursuing the education in JNU.

We see this as a deliberate act in trying to de-legitimise our struggle to save GSCASH in the campus. At this juncture when our GSCASH body is unavailable to facilitate our needs legally, we appeal to you take action against such sexual harassment and moral policing by the JNU administration and ensure that our right to live with dignity and without fear is respected. It is a humble request to intervene in this issue and take serious action to ensure our right to dignity and bodily integrity which is essential part of our right to life.

Thanking You.

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