

Resist the Sangh Parivar's Attempt to Throttle our Voices!

SFI

01-03-2016

SFI appeals to all of you to participate in large numbers in the march to parliament called by JNUSU tomorrow. This movement which we are a part of is no more only a movement in which the students of JNU are pitted against the NDA government. **This is a battle between the secular democratic voices of this nation against the fascist authoritarian voices represented by Sangh Parivar.** Therefore, it is extremely important that we turn up in great numbers in the march tomorrow.

Major demands of the march:

Release Kanhaiya, Anirban and Ummar;

Drop all charges- It has been conclusively proven by media house 'India today' that the videos which were used as prima facie evidence against Kanhaiya and others by Delhi police were doctored. In all the other videos, there is not even a single instance in which an anti-India slogan was raised by the students of JNU. Some most condemnable and irresponsible slogans were raised by some unknown elements who were probably outsiders. But even these most objectionable slogans do not amount to sedition since there was no use of violence or even intention to use violence.

Scrap Sedition law (Section 124 A of Indian Penal Code)

From the events that have unfolded, it is crystal clear that Sedition Law was used against some JNU students to intimidate them and to specifically attack any form of dissent. **In many other instances also this law has been used with the sole motive of checking dissenting voices.** One example is when the police arrested eleven poor villagers in Tamil Nadu under sedition law when they were protesting Kudankulam nuclear plant. It is extremely doubtful if these villagers had any intention to disrespect India. The archaic nature of this law is evident from the fact that over the past ten years, the Supreme Court has not sentenced even a single person guilty under the charges of sedition. Hence, it is important that the lawmakers of this country take necessary steps to scrap this pointless law which is nothing but a weapon against dissent.

Enact Rohit Act

The institutional murder of Rohit Vemulla in Hyderabad Central University is not an aberration. It is a part of pattern in which numerous Dalit students were forced to commit suicide due to different forms of discrimination in several institutes of higher education. In Hyderabad alone, there have been up to 11 cases of suicide by students, mostly Dalits, in various institutions between

2007 and 2013. In north India, besides two cases of suicide by Dalit/Adivasi students at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi, an additional 14 cases of suicide by Dalit students were reported between January 2007 and April 2011. It is therefore important that we enact legal safeguards to prevent such incidents from happening and it will be only poetic justice if this legal act is named after Rohit Vemulla. **'Rohit act' should make discrimination a punishable offence like ragging with clear cut guidelines to educational institutions and should also ensure participation of Dalits in all decision-making bodies of universities/colleges.**

Smriti Irani must resign

It is doubtful whether any MHRD minister in independent India had discredited the post as Smriti Irani has. Not only did she play a direct role in the institutional murder of Rohit Vemulla by sending letter after letter to Hyderabad Central University (HCU) to take action against the so called "ant-national activities", she had the shameless audacity to lie in the parliament that no doctor or police was allowed to check Rohit's body till 6.30 am next day. This is despite the fact that within five minutes after knowing that Rohit hanged in the hostel, the Chief Medical Officer of HCU reached the spot and declared him dead. By making such heinous statements, Smriti Irani has crossed all ethical lines and must immediately resign.

Apart from these demands, the parliament march will also raise demands like revoking the suspension of eight students and to address the witch hunt of the institution by Sangh Parivar. SFI once again appeals to all of you to take your time off from all other activities and ensure that you participate in the march tomorrow.

Study and Struggle Hindabadi

INTERNATIONAL PROTEST DAY

02

March

Join
united



Assemble at
Ganga Dhaba @ 12PM

From Mandi House at 2 PM

#SaveJNU #StandWithJNU