

17 Feb 2016

**Join UNITED PROTEST MARCH  
TOMORROW 18th February  
Mandi House to Jantar Mantar  
Assemble at Ganga Dhaba at 1:00 PM**

**#StandwithJNU**



**UNITE TO DEFEAT THE FASCIST SIEGE OF JNU!**

The SFI strongly condemns the continuation of violent assaults on the JNUSU President, Comrade Kanhaiya Kumar in the court room today. This is nothing but the continuation of the attack that happened on the 15<sup>th</sup> February where students and teachers of JNU were manhandled by goons of the BJP headed by BJP MLA O.P.Sharma which is meant to use fascist terror tactics to scare and subdue to the spirit of the powerful movement of the JNU students against the draconian actions of the Delhi Police acting on the instructions of the BJP led Central Government.

The SFI sees the recent controversy surrounding JNU as having two main components. One is the overall strategic concern of the RSS of converting academic spaces of higher learning in the country into places that are completely subservient to its Hindutva agenda so that these places can then provide the legitimacy to the various acts of the RSS in realizing its dream project of converting India into a fascist and intolerant Hindu Rashtra. We saw such efforts in FTII, HCU, IIT Madras and we are witnessing its continuation in JNU. The second one, is the more immediate tactical concern of the BJP led NDA Government at the center to divert attention away from its abject failure on the fronts of economic growth, employment generation, ensuring social justice and even national security. The latter particularly was exemplified by the serious procedural lapses in dealing with the terrorist attack on Pathankot. JNU, its teachers and students are made into pawns in a high stakes political game by the BJP which intends to whip up passion using its claims of nationalism and make JNU the only talking point in front of the people of the country ably aided as it was by a section of the corporate media. But as it happens in a game of chess, the pawns, as low in agency as they may be at the beginning of the battle, the pawns are the only pieces on the Chessboard, that can transform themselves to more powerful pieces depending on circumstances. In these really grave circumstances, the JNU community has fought back tooth and nail against the repression unleashed by the various arms of the Sangh Parivar and have stood firmly united against the recent right wing onslaught in the campus and have thus become a rallying point for all the progressive and democratic sections of the country who want to protect and deepen the whole gamut of freedoms enshrined in the Indian constitution. The SFI salutes the united resolve of the student community in JNU in the face of the most gravest right wing onslaughts that this campus has ever seen in its four decades long history.

**Crocodile tears of the ABVP!**

The valiant unity shown by the students and teachers of the University has obviously affected the ABVP, the student wing of the RSS, which has cried foul about every act of resistance that has been raised by the students and teachers of the university. Currently, the ABVP remains the sole force in the campus that justifies the draconian police action in the campus and in the name of condemning the instances of violence unleashed in the courtroom and death threats given by BJP leaders it has only tried to rationalize these despicable acts of cowardice as one of an unavoidable reaction from "patriotic" Indians outside the campus to some "anti-national" slogans inside the campus. It does not puzzle the brains of these "nationalists" that even trails that involved high-profile cases involving people who have committed heinous acts of terrorism and spying against the Indian state did not invite such murderous violence directed at them inside the courtroom. This then brings into sharp focus, what is the character of this purported "patriotism" that seems to bay for the blood of a student leader who has been charged with sedition without any prima facie evidence of him being involved in any seditious activity. This "patriotism" is nothing but a fascist tendency nurtured by the organizations affiliated with Sangh Parivar to resort to murderous violence and terror tactics to mercilessly crush and terrorize voices that do not agree with the narrative offered by the them. This was the same "patriotism" that was on show when the innocent Mohammed Akhlaq was lynched by a Mob in Dadri in late 2015.

**Afzal was just the pretext, JNU was the target!**

It is an open secret that the RSS hates JNU. As early as November, 2015, the RSS made its opinions clear about what JNU is, branding JNU a hub of anti-nationals including Naxals and Jihadis. The teachers in JNU were also seen as being party to this composition of JNU which clearly indicated that the entire university was its target not merely some left leaning student groups and students belonging to the minority community. While the RSS tried to forcefully intervene and foment communal tension inside the campus following the Jhelum hostel incident, the progressive sections of the student community came together to hand it a decisive reversal on this issue. Now once again, the RSS has intervened using the pretext that some student groups here are questioning the hanging of Afzal Guru, who the courts found guilty of orchestrating the 2003 attacks on the Indian Parliament. In the RSS's view, those who call Afzal Guru's hanging a travesty of justice are "anti-nationals". It is indeed laughable that the same ABVP which spares no time to jump into protest the moment this cultural program commemorating Afzal Guru's death commenced found it near appropriate to not question why its parent party the BJP went for an

that these recent spate of events in JNU have nothing to do with Afzal Guru or "national interest", "nationalism" or "patriotism". Afzal Guru's commemoration was a mere excuse for the ABVP and the RSS to launch a co-ordinated attack on JNU which despite its greatest displeasure remains a bastion of left-wing politics right in the heart of the national capital.

### **The Co-ordinated attack of the Sangh Parivar!**

As much as the ABVP will like us to believe that attacks in the courtroom and vitriolic statements in the media are anarchic acts undertaken by some enraged "patriots", there are clear indications that this part of a co-ordinated attack undertaken by the RSS to defame the university and gaining a license to shut down the university blaming student unrest stirred by some anti-national elements. No sooner had the cultural program on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 began that #shutdownjnu started trending at the top of the charts on social media. The RSS machinery was activated in the areas surrounding JNU by distributing incendiary pamphlets that sought to arouse passion among the people that were living in that area by spreading downright lies about JNU and its students. There was a concerted effort to quell the harmony that was enjoyed between the students of JNU and the people of surrounding areas. The media wing of the RSS along with the help of a section of the corporate media (both Hindi and English) started passing judgements about how anti-national JNU students through the selective and doctored display of video clips to create public opinion in favour of authoritarian police action. Subsequently, continuous counter protests were organized to further defame the university outside the university gates creating an impression that there are unceasing protests to nab and punish the "anti-nationals" in JNU. And finally, when it was becoming clear that the legal case of sedition against Comrade Kanhaiya might not hold water, the right-wing goons were sent to obstruct court proceedings by resorting to murderous violence and more recently the cyber wing of the parivar seems to have become active where-in the JNU library web site has been hacked. As we go to press, more nefarious plans are made to deepen the crisis and tighten the screw against the students of JNU. The BJP, for its part, has decided to embark on a Jan Swabhiman Abhiyan to show how "freedom of expression is being invoked to foment secessionist demands": The progressive and democratic sections in the society are well aware that the BJP has a problem only with the former and not the latter as exemplified by its electoral alliances across different states in India. At this juncture, it is extremely clear that more attacks to stifle freedom of speech and expression are in the offing, and the SFI pledges to beat back the recent spate of right-wing offensive.

### **#standforjnu and the need of the hour!**

The movement against this multi faceted right-wing offensive has been met head on with great enthusiasm by both the students and teachers of JNU. While clearly distancing themselves from the sectarian slogans that were raised following the cultural program on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, a vast majority of students and teachers of JNU have come forward condemning the JNU administration for its complete surrender to the powers that be at the central government. Among other things, they have demanded the unconditional release of Com. Kanhaiya Kumar, the President of the JNUSU, an institution of proper committee to inquire into the matters pertaining to the events surrounding 9<sup>th</sup> February and its aftermath and the immediate withdrawal of the blanket permission given to the Delhi Police to come and pick up anyone as they please and in any manner as they please. The ongoing movement has declared that return of normalcy is the prerequisite for any form of enquiry. Parallely, this movement of the JNU students has evoked support from the wider democratic and progressive forces in the society and has snowballed into a movement with both National and International ramifications. The need of the hour is to sustain and enhance the resistance against the Central Government which seems to have grossly underestimated the potency of student politics in JNU and the spirit of protest and struggle against injustice that continues to remain alive in the campus. The SFI appeals to the student community in JNU to join the united march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 at 1 PM. Let us come together and show the lackeys of the RSS and BJP that JNU is united and strong despite the malicious campaigns and murderous attacks launched against its students and teachers. Let us declare strongly that machinations of the fascists will not be allowed to succeed.