

Resolution of JNUTA Emergency GBM: 20 February 2016

The General Body of the JNUTA takes serious note of the mounting evidence that the Inquiry instituted by the University Administration following the incidents of 9th February 2016 is not a genuine inquiry but simply a device for witch hunting and victimizing students under external pressure. It does not appear a genuine inquiry but simply a device for witch hunting and victimizing students at the behest of forces outside the University. It is nothing but a mockery that the Enquiry Committee is proceeding towards submitting its final report without even having minimum respect for individuals who have been framed arbitrarily for sedition and cannot appear due to panic of multiple kinds. A complete neglect to the repeated representations from JNUTA to ensure credible process which inspires the confidence makes us more worried and suspicious. The Office Order suspending the students does not make any reference to the submission of interim report or any evidence which forms the basis for the decision. Moreover, the charges specific to each suspended student have been kept vague. This clearly indicates towards opinionated operation. The General Body applauds the role of the Jadavpur University VC in preserving the autonomy of the University, something that the JNU Administration should have done from the very beginning.

The General Body further observes that:

- a) Various media reports have now shown that video evidence of the incidents are not only suspect but even have been deliberately morphed and fabricated.
- b) The “High Level Committee” was constituted on 11th February, superseding the Proctorial Enquiry Committee formed on the same day. No reason for the superseding of the Proctorial Committee has been cited in the Office Order to form the High Level Committee.
- c) It also received on 11th February rather than on 9th Feb a report from the Security which has several inconsistencies even with the FIR lodged by the Police on 9th Feb. It indicates a clear collusion of the JNU Security Officer with the outside individual/agency with vested interests.
- d) Then, in less than 24 hours eight students were suspended on the basis of the recommendation of the Committee without any material basis and without giving any of them the chance to present their case.
- e) No clear ‘Terms of Reference’ of the High Level Committee has been notified or communicated to the JNU community or anybody who has been asked to depose.
- f) A member of the High Level Committee has admitted to the media that they do not have full names of students whom they wish to invite to depose before the Committee. They have invited 22 Anjalis, for instance.

Suspension eight students when such is the state of the evidence is therefore not only untenable but completely uncalled for.

- g) The Committee appears to be investigating only from amongst a section of the students.

The General Body also takes note of several other acts of commission and omission on the part of the University Administration which suggest that it has not been acting in an impartial manner:

- i. Despite repeated appeals to the University Administration by the JNUTA the blanket permission given to the Police to enter the campus has not been withdrawn.
- ii. The administration has facilitated the arbitrary investigation of both the students and teachers for the February 9th incident by the police.
- iii. The Officiating Registrar through his Press Statements at different points has endorsed the vilification of JNU and its students and teachers in the media and in the outside world.
- iv. The statement by the Officiating Registrar casting doubt on the veracity of the ferocious attack on JNU faculty and students in the court premises in full public glare (something which even the Supreme Court took cognizance of) is shocking and outrageous.
- v. There has been a gross misrepresentation of facts and gross insensitivity in various communiqués sent by the Officiating Registrar.
- vi. At the behest of and under instructions from the Officiating Registrar, JNU Security has also been acting in a partisan manner and feeding information selectively to the University and to people outside. Even the reporting of the incident of 9th Feb is extremely partisan. Moreover, this report was not submitted on the 9th Feb but only manufactured on 11th after a spurious complaint was made to the police.
- vii. The University Administration has failed to protect and safeguard the safety of students, teachers, staff and residents in the campus and outside.

In view of all the above, it is impossible for the teachers to have any faith in the University Administration or the Enquiry initiated by it. The GBM thus unequivocally rejects the Enquiry and demands:

1. That the University Administration immediately and earnestly pursue the dropping of charges of sedition and criminal conspiracy against JNU students as a precondition for any proper and credible internal process of enquiry.
2. That the officiating Registrar be removed from his position with immediate effect;
3. Immediate termination of the current Enquiry and its replacement by a credible process; and
4. That the University immediately withdraws in writing the blanket access to the campus given to the Police including to conduct raids.

The GBM cautions the University Administration that any failure to act quickly on these demands to restore confidence will only aggravate the situation on the campus and prevent restoration of normal academic life, for which the responsibility will lie squarely on its shoulders.

The GBM also expresses its deep concern at the intimidation and harassment being experienced by many students and their families and friends and the witch hunt targeting a few students selectively. This is a direct fall out of the actions of the police, a section of the media and the University Administration. The GBM declares that the teachers fully stand by their students in these trying times.

The GBM resolves:

1. To assemble for protest at 3.00 p.m. at the Administrative Block on Monday, 22 February 2016, to register our no-confidence before the Vice-Chancellor.
2. To call upon the VC to come down and meet the protesting teachers.
3. To communicate unequivocally to the Vice-Chancellor that if the demands are not met in a day then the teachers will intensify their struggle to ensure justice for which the Vice Chancellor would be solely and squarely responsible.
4. To empower the JNUTA Executive Committee to take decisions on behalf of the General Body as and when the situation demands, including approaching the Visitor with a plea for intervention.

Sd/-

Prof. Ajay Patnaik
President, JNUTA

Sd/-

Dr. Bikramaditya Choudhary
Secretary, JNUTA