



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

JNUTA unequivocally condemns the malicious slander campaign unleashed against JNU and its academic community as a cover for political witch-hunt and a vicious attack on the University's autonomy and democratic culture of debate, dialogue and dissent. JNUTA always stands for upholding the Constitution of India and values enshrined therein and are strongly opposed to any unconstitutional activity in the campus or outside. Those guilty of any such offence must be identified and punished according to established due process.

JNUTA is of the firm opinion that the matter arising out of an event can and should have been dealt with through established internal institutional mechanisms. Instead of relying on this the University Administration decided to give a *carte blanche* to the police to enter the campus to search different premises and even make random arrests. The arrest of the JNUSU President and its purported endorsement and arbitrary action by the university administration has further compounded the matter.

Forced away from their normal academic activities, JNU students are out on the streets. The attempt to create panic that criticism of any kind would entail seditious charges is much more than merely disturbing. The internal mechanisms of the University seem to be completely subverted and the autonomy of the institution stands surrendered. In such a time, we need to ponder over certain questions:

1. Will this institution remain a place for democratic dissent and disagreement amidst the apathy of administration to protect the same?
2. Will we accept and respect JNU's contributions towards social equity and justice?
3. Will the institutions uphold the idea of 'respect to people'?

JNUTA believes that the university is a place of debate and dissent. Ideas should compete with ideas; force and violence cannot be used to suppress ideas. Random arrests and detentions should stop immediately and our internal mechanisms should deal with the situation. JNUSU president should be released without delay. The arbitrary charges against students should be dropped and normal academic environ be restored in the university at the earliest.

JNUTA demands observation of impartiality, due process and the principles of natural justice in dealing the cases through internal institutional mechanism and stop the ongoing witch hunt. JNUTA express its solidarity with the students and urge upon the larger community to save the democratic ethos of JNU.

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