



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

February 15, 2016, 6.30 PM

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers Association condemns in unequivocal terms the brutal assault by persons disguised as lawyers on members of the JNU faculty and subsequently students within the very precincts of Court No 2, Patiala House.

In view of the imminent presentation of the JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar before a judge in connection with a totally false and fabricated charge of sedition, about a dozen teachers, most of them women, of the university were in court to follow the proceedings and to show solidarity with the student. At about 2 PM, about 30 persons barged into the court abusing our colleagues in the choicest terms, also calling them anti-national and traitors, threatening them with dire consequences, in the very presence of uniformed police personnel while they were awaiting the beginning of the court proceedings.

Following the legitimate objections raised by our colleagues against such behaviour, the goons physically assaulted Dr. Rohit, beating him mercilessly. Our women colleagues who objected to the assault were subjected to sexual abuse. Their fervent pleas to the police personnel for protection went unheeded and the police stood by as mute spectators to the assault. Instead of taking action against the assailants, they coerced the teachers into leaving the courtroom from the backdoor. After that our students were also attacked.

JNUTA protests most vehemently against this assault on our colleagues and students, against the inaction of the police, and above all, against this blatant contempt of court in the very temple of democracy. Such acts expose the true face of the fascist forces that are attacking JNU and the democratic fabric of this country. Such acts only reinforce our conviction to fight this mindset through reason and debate. JNUTA wants to emphasise that JNU Teachers will not be cowed down by such violence. This renews our resolve to be determined in our fight against this attack through non-violent means.

The JNUTA demands that the police take immediate action against those responsible for the assault on members of the JNU community today. It also demands action against those police personnel who failed to uphold their duty by giving hooliganism within the premises of a court of law a free hand.

In protest against this continuing assault against JNU and the failure of the University Administration to protect the University, its community and its autonomy, teachers of JNU will be on strike tomorrow, Tuesday 16th February 2016, and will also take out a march.

Prof. Ajay Patnaik
President, JNUTA

Dr. Bikramaditya Choudhary
Secretary, JNUTA