

Swaraj Abhiyan - Telangana

Hyderabad, 28 March 2016

FACT FINDING & OPEN REPRESENTATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, CHIEF JUSTICE-SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, THE MINISTER FOR HRD-GOVT OF INDIA, CHIEF JUSTICE-HIGH COURT AT HYDERABAD, THE CHIEF MINISTER-TELANGANA, THE HOME MINISTER-TELANGANA, CHIEF SECRETARY-TELANGANA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE-TELANGANA, & THE MEDIA

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RESTORE HCU BACK TO STUDENTS AND FACULTY - VACATE ACCUSED IN
ROHITH SUICIDE FROM CAMPUS – RELEASE ALL DETAINED AND DROP
CHARGES – CONDUCT INDEPENDENT TIMEBOUND INQUIRY INTO POLICE
ACTION & ALLEGED ATTACK ON VC HOUSE

Concerned Police personnel to be held accountable and punished for brutality of police
on duty -

HCU Administration to be proceeded against for denial of basic human rights in campus

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Home Minister of Telangana to answer for Uday Bhanu landing from HCU to ICU -
HRD Minister to relieve Prof Appa Rao and initiate stringent disciplinary and criminal
action against him.

Ref: <http://www.kractivist.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

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Swaraj Abhiyan-Telangana is dumb-struck and shocked at the abusive, unprecedented inhuman treatment meted out to students/faculty of HCU by the Telangana police and the HCU Administration, after watching the videos of police brutality and hearing from student/faculty.

Cyberabad Police is known for its people-friendly conduct steered by its Commissioner. But, the videos lay bare the brutal conduct of our Cyberabad Police which is against their motto 'Honour, Duty, Compassion, Your Safety Our Concern' that they displayed on their uniform, while dragging beating and chasing students. Commissioner of Police should have visited the campus and assuaged the tense insecure feelings as bound by duty towards people. He was a student in this same city. Does he not want students of HCU to become responsible officers/citizens like him? We read thru media that 'outsiders' are not allowed inside. Conduct and presence of police inside campus has generated fear and disturbed law and order for every citizen of Hyderabad. How are we sure that the students in custody have vandalized the house of VC? **Going by track record why shouldn't we as citizens not be led to believe that 'vanadalism' was done by others, to throw blame on the peacefully protesting students?** Even police have admitted that students had conducted themselves peacefully these past several months. Why was the student Uday Bhanu who was cooking food in open campus, as messes are closed, beaten by police so much that he is in ICU? **Police went against law and against their duty-oaths and need to be proceeded against by Home Minister/Chief Minister of Telangana.**

As pointed out by a member of JAC at HCU, none of women police had lathis. but women students were beatean with lathis, which means and as is evident from videos male police beat women.

Minister of HRD should have removed VC of HCU as he is accused in the death of Rohit Vemula and matter is sub-judice. The manner in which Prof Appa Rao re-entered HCU and pre-planned events for 22nd March(for which documentary evidence is in public domain) only reinforces his arbitrary, irresponsible and malafide conduct. Affidavit of CP, Cyberabad was sufficient proof of fabrication of entire earlier episodes. While an accused is being protected in the campus, students and faculties have been taken into custody, and made to languish in jail for over eight days. **Minister should reach out to students, come to HCU and speak to students to uphold the Constitution of India and assure them of the azadis that they are asking for.** The azadis from poverty, unemployment, social inequalities, casteism, communism are all laid down under Directive Principles of Constitution of India as guidelines for the Government to follow. **Let her appreciate the creativity, courage in our Indian students and provide conducive environment with progressive VCs selected on**

merit and track record and encourage students to be responsible citizens including future parliamentarians.

HCU administration who should have stood by students, instead adopted most undemocratic and regressive attitude by calling in police and denying basic human rights to students. Students of HCU were already suffering from want of water and preponement of study-schedule. Exams are just around the corner. Students of HCU were denied water, food by closing messes, electricity and internet . **As an extreme, students inside campus were not allowed to withdraw money from their bank accounts.** Students were begging their faculties for some money to attend to their basic needs. **What about the special basic needs of women students?** Students are appealing to people outside campus to give them accommodation and food. **And conscious citizens who tried to reach out to students with water and food were denied entry by Police.**

Telangana government should have handled students numbering around 5000 on the campus, who are on our Telangana soil from across India and abroad, in a most amicable manner. **the police here is under the Telangana government unlike the police in Delhi.** Government of Telangana has to break silence, answer the students and public regarding the inhuman and below dignity treatment meted to our students, **by taking action against its police department.**

Swaraj Abhiyan-Telangana feels that students who are our knowledge torch bearers and our future leaders should see in government a prototype worth emulating, which is sadly not the case.

Swaraj Abhiyan visited Cherlapally jail and met 6 students and one professor today i.e, 28 March 2016. Important findings during interaction are as follows:

- On 21st March 2016 Acting VC Prof Periaswamy had conducted an all-Dean and all-HODs meeting during which crucial issues to steer the HCU were taken up. Issues such as increase in non-NET fellowship, Lab facilities and infrastructure to be in commensurate with number of students, change in pattern of exams to bring in more credits for oral skills, , to bring Students' Agenda to the fore, including Establishing Anti-Discrimination Officer in the HCU was discussed.
- Students reiterated that on 22 March, on learning of unauthorized assumption of charge by Prof Appa Rao, by the time they went to VC Lodge, they found ABVP students, select teaching and non-teaching staff already inside the VC lodge. They also stated that photos and probe will reveal that 'vandalism' took place from inside the premises, whereas they were outside.
- Police were selective in arresting students apart from ruthlessly beating while abusing and accusing with unconstitutional behaviour. Prof was accused

‘of promoting jihadis, Pakistan and creating Afzal Gurus in campus’. Students were thrashed both in the campus as well as in confines of the vans.

- **Students were shifted to around 5 police stations prior to, only five of them, being presented before the Judicial Magistrate Miyapur at her residence around 11.45pm- 12 midnight on 23rd March 2016. The magistrate has however, remanded all 27 students and professors to judicial custody.**
- **The students/professors were arrested around 6pm from HCU Campus but were not produced before the Magistrate within 24 hours, nor were their families informed.**
- **Cell phones of all detainees were snatched and continue to be in custody of Police till date.**
- **During shifting between police stations although the students and professors were taken to AREa Hospital Kondapur, they were not treated for the severe injuries inflicted on them nor were medical reports prepared. Prof who had high blood pressure was also not shown due consideration.**
- **While 9 students who were taken into custody were hurdled into a 108 van the remaining 18 were taken into a police van.**
- **One of the students who was a spectator standing at GOAPS canteen about 300 meters away was dragged, badly beaten and arrested. This student was repeatedly beaten on thighs and back so much so that the large black-red injury marks are still clearly visible. He is given only pain killers at the jail.**
- **Students told that most of them even on 6th day were in pain due to the indiscriminate beating by police on march 22.**
- **Both male and female police personnel have resorted to brutal and terrorizing role thru their language and action. Some names that are quickly recollected are that of Raghavendra, SI, Raidurgam PS; and Lal Madan, Naveen, Bhupati, and CI Ramesh Kumr from Gachibowli PS.**

Swaraj Abhiyan-Telangana urges prompt action from All Concerned Authorities to:

Shift Research scholar Uday Bhanu to best of care in Hyderabad at Govt of TElangana cost; we cannot afford to lose any more student lives out of sheer mishandling by Governments at center and state;

Relieve VC of his chair, vacate his premises, as his matter is subjudice and initiate criminal and departmental proceedings against him;

Restore HCU back to students and faculty and security of HCU by evicting police;

Release students/ faculty immediately and drop charges/withdraw cases where there is no proof of wrongdoing;

Restore rights granted under our Constitution in the HCU campus;

Conduct a thorough, transparent and quickest probe into the extreme brutalities and terror unleashed by police on the students/faculties, as well as the truth behind alleged 'vandalizing' VC's lodge; Place action taken report in public domain;
Apologize to parents and students who have been terrorized, beaten, ill-treated and traumatized; Return their cell phones in tact to them;
Allow media inside and stop fortification of HCU;
Speed up trial of Rohit Vemula suicide case;
Bring in Rohit Act after round tables with students and all stake holders;
Finally, the need of the hour is also to ensure the selection and training of Police is such that they observe ethical behavior, adhere to human rights and uphold Constitution of India and its democratic ethos at all times.

Our salutations to all the citizens of India/World who love and uphold democratic ethos and Constitution of India.

Smt Chaya Ratan, IAS(Retd) Convenor- SWARAJ ABHIYAN –TELANGANA
Dr Lubna Sarwath, Member National Steering Committee – Swaraj Abhiyan