

## **PRESS RELEASE BY JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE (UoH)**

### **DATED 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL – UOH STUDENTS' MANDATE AGAINST APPA RAO PODILE**

12<sup>th</sup> of April was a historical moment for the university of Hyderabad and students community all over. The students through their courageous act and indispensable political commitment towards justice and equality have given their official mandate by the means of a University general body meeting against the casteist and fascist order prevailing in the university. Today on the 13<sup>th</sup> **Rohith's mother was denied entry once more inside the campus, stating that she is an outsider to the university and has no grounds to come here.** The students, faculty, Rohith's family has been facing continuous discrimination, humiliation and repression by the use of state machinery and the police.

A vicious propaganda by University administration which is in the hands of the institutional murderer of Rohith Vemula, Appa Rao Podile, his higher ups in BJP and RSS, have always been alleging that it is just 20-30 students who have been trying to destabilize "normalcy" whereas most students are unaffected by the struggle for justice for Rohith.

Students of University of Hyderabad have destroyed these false claims and lies perpetrated by Appa Rao Podile, his "like-minded" stooges and his political masters by coming out in large numbers in the middle of the Semester-End Examinations, for the University General Body Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, and giving a clear mandate against Appa Rao Podile. On a call given by UoH Students' Union, UGBM, the highest decision-making body of students, on 12<sup>th</sup> April was **attended by 949 students** and passed the following resolutions unanimously (the first resolution was objected by 1 student):

- Remove Appa Rao Podile from the post of Vice-Chancellor.
- Put an end to Campus Blockade immediately.
- Demilitarize University of Hyderabad campus immediately.
- Constitute a Committee against Prejudices and Discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions.
- Drop all the false police cases slapped on students, professors and a media person.

Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) welcomes the decision of the student community of University of Hyderabad. The message to BJP, RSS and their henchmen occupying seats of power in University of Hyderabad is simple: Get out of our University! We will not tolerate any attack on University autonomy. We will not tolerate your caste hegemony and violence. We will not stop until caste is annihilated.

We demand the President of India who is also the Visitor of University of Hyderabad to take cognisance of the continuing atrocities on students from marginalized sections in University of Hyderabad. We demand that the students' General Body mandate be

implemented immediately and justice be delivered to our deceased friend Rohith Vemula. We demand the Telangana Police to immediately arrest all the five culprits booked under SC/ST Atrocities Act and Abetment of Suicide, responsible for the institutional murder of Rohith Vemula: Appa Rao Podile, BandaruDattatreya, Ramchander Rao, Alok Pandey and Susheel Kumar.

**Jai Bhim! InquilabZindabad! Justice for Rohith !**