

When the university becomes a Prison

24 students, 2 faculty and 1 media person are currently inside the Cherlapally jail.

They were assaulted by the police inside the vans.

The campus resembles a military camp with hundreds of police personnel roaming around.

The university is blocked out from outside contact. Lawyers, relatives, human rights commissions, Rohith's mother and media not being allowed to enter the campus.

RohithVemula is dead.

PodileAppaRao is back, claiming to be the VC

Rohith Vemula a student like us who had a dream to become a science writer, dreamt of a classless and casteless society was put in coffin by the discriminatory Vice-Chancellor and his stooges. A student who fought against the capital punishment – RohithVemula, was compelled to hang himself by the Hindutva BJP and their academic goon P. AppaRao. This nation witnessed a militant struggle post the institutional murder of Rohith which compelled P. AppaRao to go on an indefinite leave. The campus community decided to resume its activities while continuing its struggle demanding the arrest of P. AppaRao and others accused and Enactment of Rohith Act.

What happened on 22nd March 2016?

On 22nd March 2016 the Telangana police unleashed brutal attack on students who were peacefully protesting for the arrest of Vice-Chancellor P. AppaRao who resumed office in a covert manner after a long leave. There is a FIR filed against P. AppaRao and his anticipatory bail plea was not accepted by the court. There is also a Judicial Committee inquiring the institutional murder of RohithVemula. In these circumstances P. AppaRao returned to the campus with the vicious motive of disrupting the functioning of the university as he was not able to digest the fact that university is functioning peacefully in his absence. By the act of returning P. AppaRao did not only disrespect the university community but also disrupted the judicial process. When the university administration is accusing students of vandalism, there are few questions the VC P. AppaRao and administration should address.

Why AppaRao had to go to VC lodge to resume office instead of his chamber in admin block?

Why there were 50 ABVP students, non-teaching faculties and some faculties present in VC lodge?

Why AppaRao had to make tasks list? (Available online)

Students were enraged to know that accused P. AppaRao has returned to campus as VC and was humiliated to learn that he was accompanied by more than 50 ABVP students. The administration is manipulating the facts to blame the JAC for vandalism while the fact is that any damage that happened inside was the result of altercation between ABVP and protesting students when ABVP mocked the students by raising slogans like AppaRaoZindabad.

Police Brutality and Human Rights Violation:

The Telangana State government and police did not arrest a prime suspect of Rohith's murder on whom the FIR is filed and whose anticipatory bail is not accepted by the High Court, instead protecting the culprit. This brings suspicion on credibility of the State government and the police. The Telangana police not only provided protection to P. AppaRao but also lathi charged students and faculties at 5 pm approximately. The brutal police did not spare even the women students and senior faculties like Prof. K.Y. Ratnam. The brutal attack by police severely injured more than 100 students among them several are suffering from serious head injuries and fractures on limbs. The police detained 27 students including students' union Vice-President VenkateshChowhan and faculties Prof. K.Y. Ratnam and Prof. TathagataSengupta. The Telangana police did not follow any rules and norms in the arrest instead functioned like the private goons of P. AppaRao. The violence of police did not stop after the arrest, they beat the students and faculties in the van. The lathi charge was not to remove the students and faculties but to unleash terror and fear among those who rise against discrimination and voice any dissent. The arrested students and faculties where denied their basic rights and their whereabouts were not declared even to the family members. The police secretly produced them in the Magistrate House at Hasfiguda (Hyderabad) on 23rd March midnight which is after 36 hours of arrest and been remanded for 14 days. This is a clear violation of rights and the arrested students and faculties were also denied of proper legal aid.

In the mean-time students were denied of food, water, electricity and internet. P. AppaRao with the help of the State and Central government implemented unannounced emergency denied basic rights of students. Since 22nd March afternoon to 24th March the hostel messes were closed and water supply was stopped. The university looked like a concentration camp without gas chamber but we have VC lodge. Students started running mess and cooking in the open space as the university administration denied food to the students. The Telangana police attacked the students who were cooking; UdhayBhanu(a Phd Telugu student) was injured badly by the police and got admitted in

Hospital. No press and media was allowed inside and any news about the campus was available to outside world only through Prof. VipinSrivastava (Spokesperson) who is a suspect himself and responsible for Senthil's death in 2008. A single individual P. AppaRao is holding university under siege to quench his power thirst.

Meanwhile **lawyers and members of human rights organizations** approached the University and were **denied entry to campus**. When they contact the students about the same from the gate, the students were told by the campus security that they would have to go the VC AppaRaoPodile if they wanted lawyers to enter the campus so students could access their fundamental right to legal counsel, but they refused to give this in writing.

On Going Student Struggle:

Students all over the nation are firmly rallying with the Joint Action Committee at UoH and fiercely fighting the police and administration's repression. Progressive and democratic organizations protested all over the nation against this brutality and the State turned to violence to oppress the movements in Delhi, Kerala, Chennai, Mumbai and Bangalore. The general public in Hyderabad was enraged by the undemocratic and brutal attack of police and university administration. People supported us by providing food packets, water bottles and even opening their houses for the university students. This struggle is now also against the police, Telangana State government and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao for protecting P. AppaRao and brutally attacking the students. Such activities prove that this Telangana State government is acting against the interest of students and SC/ST people of the state. We demand immediate action to be taken against the police personals who ordered for lathi charge and arrest of P. AppaRao. Students of HCU are not depended upon the oppressive governments for justice rather it believes the people and the power of students' unity. **We appeal the students of HCU and all other universities and colleges to stand against the murderers of Rohith, democracy and human rights, we request everyone to voluntarily boycott the classes on 28th March 2016.**

Demands

- 1. Dropping of all charges against students and faculty**
- 2. Immediate removal and arrest of AppaRao(and others) under Prevention Of Atrocities act**
- 3. Demilitarisation of the campus**

4. Action against the police for the unnecessary and targeted violence, false detention, misinformation about the detained people and physical and sexual assault of women students and faculty.
5. Pass and implement Rohith Act.

Joint action committee for social justice UoH