

**Press Release by Joint Action Committee for Social (UoH) dated 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2016**

Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) condemns in the strongest possible words, the slander campaign launched against us and our on-going struggle for social justice. In the recent edition of Tehelka, Prof. Sukumar N wrote an article alleging Dalit Students' Union (UoH) and the entire madiga community of "politically supporting the ABVP".

To quote:

*"The UOH campus has been rendered more toxic by the insidious nature of sub-caste politics. All the five Dalit students who have been rusticated belong to the Mala sub-caste. They are also more in numbers in the ASA. The other subcaste group, the Madigas, have organised themselves as the Dalit Students Union (DSU), which is now politically supporting the ABVP."*

<http://www.tehelka.com/2016/01/universities-as-modern-agraharas/2/>

Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) comprises of 14 student organizations. We forged unity and fought relentlessly against the injustice meted out to the five Dalit research scholars. It is also evident from several slander campaigns on social media that the entire saffron brigade has persistently campaigned against the on-going struggle by misappropriating facts about Rohith Vemula's death and his caste identity. We see this latest attack on DSU in particular and Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) at large as a malicious and vilifying attempt to diffuse the on-going struggle. On what basis did Prof. N. Sukumar come to such a conclusion? We challenge Prof. N Sukumar if he can substantiate his argument on DSU's relationship with ABVP and sub-caste politics.

We reiterate that Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) will forge ahead undeterred by any slander that might come our way. We are attaching to this mail, a response from Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH) to Tehelka. We demand a public apology and explanation from Prof. Sukumar. N for making such baseless, malicious and false statements against the members of Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH).

**Joint Action Committee for Social Justice (UoH)**