

A NOTE ON THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON 22.03.2016 AT THE LODGE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

At the outset, we may bring to your kind notice that the complaint lodged at the behest of a political party against the University Administration is motivated and does not reflect the true and correct facts. While the Vice Chancellor is sparing no effort to restore normalcy on the campus, rumours, as mentioned in the complaint under reply, are being spread so as to cause unrest in the University. Following facts would demonstrate the efforts of the Vice Chancellor in restoring the facilities to the students on top priority. Evidently none of the University students approached this Hon'ble Authority complaining of any human right violations and a Political Party, which has no connection with the affairs of the University has lodged a false complaint against the Vice Chancellor. For better appreciation, it is necessary to take note of the following facts: After conclusion of the recording of the depositions of various stakeholders by the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on 21st March, 2016 - the Vice-Chancellor resumed his duties on 22nd March 2016 and was holding a meeting with the local members of the Executive Council, Deans of Schools, Chief Proctor and the Director for College of Integrated Studies around 10.00 hrs. in the Committee room at his residential premises on the campus of the University. While the meeting was going on, a mob came to the lodge, jumped over the main gate, broke open the main door, windows and door glass panes and entered the premises of the lodge. They had vandalized the personal property of the Vice-Chancellor as well as that of the University. They had also manhandled and roughed up the security staff and barged into the room where the meeting was being held. Terrorized by the violence, the blood pressure levels of the Chief Proctor shot up and he had to be taken out in an ambulance for treatment. The mob had damaged the LED TV, computers, printers, photo-frames and furniture in the premises causing huge loss. But for the timely intervention of the students of Life Sciences and some non-teaching staff present there in forming a protective security cordon, the Vice-Chancellor and other faculty members would have been brutally assaulted. From the brutality of the actions of the mob and the slogans raised by them to the extent of killing the Vice- Chancellor, it can be gauged that their intention was to cause physical harm to the Vice-Chancellor. The electronic media that came for a press meet and were filming the events were also assaulted by the mob. On being alerted by the administration, the police reached the spot and restored order. Alarmed by the turn of events, the non-teaching staff of the University, who were observing the unfortunate events for the past few months with concern, had assembled at the administration building. On learning about the vandalism of the Vice-Chancellor's lodge, they marched to the spot and confronted the mob. There were heated arguments and sloganeering between the two groups which continued till late

into the evening. Agonized by the ransacking of the Vice-Chancellor's lodge and physical assault on the security staff and the insults heaped on them, the non-teaching bodies had formed a Joint Action Committee to negotiate steps to restore order in the campus. In protest against the violence resorted to by the students, the non-teaching staff boycotted their duties in the messes in hostels and had also switched off wi-fi internet services from the afternoon of 22nd March 2016. When the students failed to respond positively to the appeals of the Police to leave the premises, they were lifted by the police and taken away from the compound of the Vice-Chancellor's lodge. Enraged by this, the evicted students started pelting stones at the police, which caused serious injuries to some of the police personnel. The police had then resorted to mild force to disperse students to avoid further damage to the property of the University and injuries to the persons present there. The police then took 27 students along with two Associate Professors into custody for vandalizing Government property and preventing public servants in the performance of their duties. The Vice-Chancellor called a meeting of the bodies of the non-teaching staff in the presence of senior faculty and prevailed upon them to restore the messes and wi-fi services to avoid hardship to the students. Accordingly, the messes and internet services were restored from the morning of 24th March 2016.

FACTUAL POSITION ON THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE H.R.CASE NO.2379/2016 BEFORE THE HON'BLE ANDHRA PRADESH STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

1 The University of Hyderabad Authorities have closed all the hostels and which is affecting over 5000 students. No food & no water too. It is a totally baseless allegation. None of the hostels was closed and not a single student was evicted from any hostel. Owing to drastic reduction in supply of water by the HMWSSB and dwindling ground water levels, the University campus is facing severe water shortage since November 2015, forcing the administration to regulate water supply to the residents of the campus. The situation was so alarming that the administration was compelled to shorten the semester and close it by 30th April 2016 by holding classes even on Saturdays. In protest against the brutal attack at the residential premises of the Vice-Chancellor and on some non-teaching staff, the kitchen staff employed in the hostel messes had boycotted their duties from the afternoon of 22.3.2016. On the fervent appeal of the Vice Chancellor to avoid hardship to the students, the kitchen staff had resumed their duties on 24.3.2016. Thus, the Vice Chancellor was instrumental for restoration of the normal functioning of the messes.

2 The Authorities even cut-down internet connections to all the students and faculty As stated above, in protest against the vandalism of students on the Vice-Chancellor and

non-teaching staff - the nonteaching staff employed in the Campus Network Facility (CNF) had switched off the internet services to the entire campus, including administration building. No instructions were issued by the administration to stop the internet services on the campus. The internet services were restored on 24th March 2016 on the appeal of the Vice Chancellor to the non-teaching staff.

3 The UoH authorities are not allowing media and others onto the campus Owing to the extraordinary situation prevailing on the University campus, and to avoid further aggravation in the situation, the entry of outsiders, including media, into the campus was barred by the administration. The presence of media on the campus is triggering aggressive public postures by various groups and persons for publicity. However, anyone intending to contact media is free to do so outside the campus. From the above stated facts, it can be seen that none of the basic human rights of students of the University was violated by the administration of the University. The only inconvenience caused to them was due to boycott of duties by the kitchen and network staff, which was called off by them after the active intervention of the Vice Chancellor.