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AIFRTE Condemns Brutal Attack on Students of Jadavpur University

All India Forum for Right to Education (AIFRTE) strongly condemns the inhuman assault on protesting students of Jadavpur University on the night of 16-17 September 2014 by Kolkata police in collusion with the Vice-Chancellor. He called police to break up the peaceful protest by students and did nothing to prevent the brutal assault despite knowing that the protestors included women students who were attacked and molested by the police and goons. Reports that the police was accompanied by plainclothes policemen and goons belonging to ruling Trinamool Congress are a matter of serious concern.

The attack comes in backdrop of seven-day long peaceful sit-in-dharna by university students who were demanding the university administration to take action against anti-social elements who had molested a woman-student on 28th August in the university premises. Students wanted an independent panel of inquiry for the incident and action to be taken against members of the University's Internal Complaints Committee who harassed the victim and violated the clear Supreme Court guidelines laid down in the Vishakha judgement. It is shocking that the legitimate demands of the students were not considered and appropriate steps to ensure safety of women students on the campus were not taken. It is also disturbing that the police showed no interest in moving against those who had perpetrated a serious crime despite the fact that one of the perpetrators has been identified.

AIFRTE takes serious note of this attack on campus democracy. Such attacks are becoming increasingly common in West Bengal and in other states where the respective state governments have not taken action against guilty police officers or anti-social elements often connected with the ruling party or its affiliates.

AIFRTE stands in full solidarity with the brave students of Jadavpur University and demands that,

- Immediate action should be taken against police officials responsible for the attack on peaceful protestors on the night of 16-17 September 2014;
- Action should be taken against the university administrators including the Vice-Chancellor for colluding in the brutal police assault on the students, failing to protect the university's student community especially woman students and failing to ensure compliance with the Vishakha judgment guidelines;
- Action should be taken against police officials for not acting with due diligence in the molestation case filed by the woman student of Jadavpur University;
- Immediate action should be taken against those guilty of molesting the woman student on 28th August in the university premises; and
- An independent panel should be immediately constituted to inquire into all aspects of this gruesome episode and recommend appropriate action against all police officials and officials of Jadavpur University who are responsible for any acts of omission or commission.

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Prof. Anil Sadgopal

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शिक्षा नहीं कोई कारोबार, है यह जनता का अधिकार

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