

Extend Support and Solidarity to the Just Struggle of JNU Students! Condemn Government's Brutal Policy of Suppression!

Steep hike in hostel and mess fee, imposition of so-called appropriate dress code for students and the curfew timings for the hostel residents together with the installation of electricity and water meters for hostel rooms and a monthly service charge of Rs 1700 came as an arbitrary and hard hitting attack on the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi. The hike and additional fee is nearly 1000% and it will seriously hit economically marginalized students in the University. The students hence forth will have access to library only up to 11.30 pm and later they would be governed by curfew rule. As the students rightly feel, these moves are intended to kill the inclusive idea of the university and reduce the education into a commodity accessible only to a certain class and castes of society.

The students began their protest under the leadership of JNUSU. More than 3000 students who sought to represent their problems to the Union Minister for the H R D and the Vice President who came for the University Convocation were prevented by barricades. The CRPF and police forces have detained those who managed to get past the barricade. They used lathis and water cannons to disperse the students. They manhandled, mistreated the students and caused injuries to a good number of protesters. The big paramilitary and police force continued to stay outside the campus till midnight.

On Nov 13, 2019, the JNU administration has announced a partial roll back of the hostel fee increase. But this was a move to divide and befool the students. Students demanded a complete scrapping of the increase. On November 17, the students took out a long march to the Parliament but met with worst police repression. The police barricaded the roads, baton charged the students brutally and arrested over 150 protesters. They foisted false cases against the students. Yet the students continued the protest showing an exemplary unity and determination.

Ever since BJP Govt. came in the Centre, not only it extended all patronage and support to the communal, casteist and national chauvinist forces in the university but also intensified slander and attack against the progressive, democratic, dalit and minority streams among the students. It foisted false cases against some under NSA or Sedition Act. But the leadership and activists of these streams stood firm undaunted, and united. They had won the affection of the students and got elected as the leadership of the JNUSU by defeating the ABVP in the Union elections.

The struggle of JNU students is just and democratic. It champions the right of people to education, opposes the disastrous policy of rulers to commercialize the education and deprive the vast masses of people from education. We welcome the students in different parts of India coming into protest actions in support and solidarity with the struggle and demands of JNU students and condemning the policy of JNU and the Central Govt. to brutally suppress the just struggle of students. We hope and wish this protest will overcome all the difficulties, grow in strength and momentum and win more victories.

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Viswam
General Secretary
C. P. I. (M-L)
