

## The intensifying Menace of Right Reactionary Intolerance of Our Rulers

While the fringe elements of Hindu communal brigade have been dictating what the people have to think, read, eat, speak and behave in the society through their attacks, violence and lynchings on people, the political leaders and the government that is supposed to control and maintain law and order itself is indulging in acts of right reactionary intolerance against academicians, journalists, social activists and even administrators who dissent with the actions of the government. The vindictiveness of those in power and in administration is intensifying day by day against those who differ, dissent and oppose their views and opinions with unwarranted intolerance. The following occurrences in recent months exemplify such right-reactionary intolerance shown by those who are in power.

The Bharatiya sikshan Mandal affiliated to RSS, which claims to work with the objective of national resurgence in the field of education, which ostensibly concedes that the JNU-Delhi was a remarkable university stating “the academic standards, the rigour, the kind of research that is done in JNU is marvelous and it is one of the best universities in the country”, demands the name of Jawaharlal Nehru University be changed to Jayaprakash Narayan University, with the argument that there are six to seven central universities in the name of Jawaharlal Nehru and even roads and stadiums are named after him. Such is the perverse logic resorted to by BSM which intends to belittle Nehru and his fame in accordance with the views of RSS and is part of the recent episodes of smear campaign on Nehru started by the BJP leaders.

The administration of JNU too wanted to prove its loyalty to these communal forces in power. With such a zeal it asked eminent historian Romila Thapar along with several other distinguished academics like molecular biologist Ashis Datta and theoretical physicist R. Rajaram for *Curriculum Vitae*. Romila Thapar is a critic of present government's stand on history, it is apparent that the revenge seeking ruling BJP wants to humiliate Romila Thapar over intellectual differences in academic matters, by asking for her CV which is already up on the JNU website. While this act of vindictiveness is criticized throughout the world, now the JNU administrators are attempting to justify their act with lame excuses like that the JNU is just following Rule 32(g) of Academic Rules and Regulations of all emeritus professors at the age of 75 which is to consider their health status, willingness, availability to university needs etc. The RSS pundits like Viswa Adluri and their henchmen like Rajiv Srinivasan are arguing with perverse logic like that “she has done nothing lately for a life time sinecure and that she is making JNU look silly”; and that her Aryan migration theory is highly questionable. Since she is innocent of all classical languages of India – Sanskrit, Pali and Tamil – her entire opus must be based on translations of primary texts usually the work of biased or motivated European scholars, hence her opinions are unacceptable. Such has been the height of right reactionary intolerance being expressed by Hindu communal forces against the intellectuals of progressive understanding to insult them. This is nothing but insulting our very tolerant culture and ethos.

Following the footsteps of leaders in power the Delhi police filed an FIR against Kashmir activist Shela Rashid on a lawyer's complaint against her for sedition since she had tweeted rumours that the Army had tortured four boys in Shopian in South Kashmir. Though

Ms Rashid's tweet is an hyperbole as less than a handful of Kashmiris have died during police action on protests after the /August 5 announcement to end JK's autonomy, it was not an exaggeration of a larger clamp-down and crackdown on Kashmiri society in comparison with BBC's reportage of August 9 demonstration in Srinagar in which around 10,000 participated and many were injured in the consequent police action, or the reports and commentary of the New York Times against the Kashmir policy of New Delhi. This is a deliberate attempt to muffle the local voices raised against the policy being pursued by the government.

The journalists who are exposing corruption and wrong doing are being depicted as criminals slamming their job of disseminating news as mala fide. The government of UP has been indulging in booking false cases against the journalist Pawan Jaiswal who works for Mizapur daily, Jansandesh Times, who reported of children being served only rotis and salt for their mid-day meal at a primary school through a video report, was charged by UP police with criminal conspiracy, cheating and providing false evidence to defame the UP government. But the local people stood in support of Pawan Jaiswal claiming that he was implicated in false charges. Even the village pradhan Rajkumar Pal who is supporting Jaiswal too is implicated in to false police cases. Another journalist Santosh Jaiswal who took the photograph of some children mopping the floor is also implicated in a false case and arrested for obstructing public servants from discharging their duty and extortion. On September 7, UP police have booked five journalists in Bijnor after they reported that a dalit family was prevented from drawing water from a hand pump.

It is not only academicians and journalists that are faced with the wrath of the intolerant rulers, but also some administrators are being harassed by them. Ashok Lavasa is an election Commissioner, who during the recent Lok Sabha elections, dissented with the three member commission six times in which he felt that grantees of the central government were violating the model code conduct. He was particularly critical of the speech by the Prime Minister at a rally in Gujarat on April 21, in which the PM claimed that he kept Pakistan on its toes to ensure safe return IAF pilot Abhinandan. While the full commission found no violation. Mr. Lavasa dissented. Now the rulers with their vindictive attitude chose to harass Lavasa and used IT Department. With extraordinary zeal the IT department has given notices to Naveen Singh Lavasa, the wife of Ashok Lavasa, questioning on her IT returns for the past five years. She was a class one officer of SBI for 28 years and she has regularly paid her income tax. This method of intimidation is employed only to warn the future commissioners not to interfere in the way the elections are being conducted by those in power.

Thus a growing number of citizens are being hounded by our right reactionary forces for criticizing the political leaders or revealing corruption and other scandals perpetrated by state authorities.

This menace of authoritarianism has to be resisted, so as to protect the freedoms and democratic rights of people.

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