

# JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022

## PRESS RELEASE

Today, at 10.30 A.M. around 15 students barged into the Students' & Project Section of the University confining the staff to their seats only. They stopped the exit and entry of anybody in the Section as a result of which the office work and students' dealing came to a standstill.

As soon the matter was brought to the notice of the University Authorities, three senior officers of the University were rushed to the section to know the contention of these students so as to resolve the matter. These students were repeatedly requested to come for a dialogue and not to confine the staff as there were female staff members also present in the section. But they totally refused for any dialogue. They were threatening the Vice Chancellor & Rector and kept intimidating the officers. As it was almost 1.00 P.M. and the staff, confined in the section had to take lunch, some officers were sent again to the section to appeal to these students to allow the staff to have their lunch but to no avail. These students were misbehaving with the staff including lady staff present in the section. The University authorities were also reported about the development of some medical problems among some staff members who were not allowed to move from the section. An ambulance was immediately called but the students did not allow even the ailing staff members to go outside. Moreover, the Staff Association of the University also met the authorities to take immediate action for the release of the staff and they also started gathering outside the Students' and Project Section in large numbers to protect the staff. Some staff inside the hall had called police to rescue as some of them had developed serious health issues under confinement and mistreatment. Police personals were present in their vehicle outside the building. But as the situation was getting serious, the University authority was left with no other option but to ask the unarmed security staff, not the police, to get the staff released in order to avoid any serious medical complication and further escalation of conflict between students and the staff. The moment these unarmed security guards tried to enter the section, the students started attacking them with chairs and smashing the glass panes of the section. There was utter chaos in the Section. The security guards somehow managed to get most of the staff members rescued except four employees. In this effort, some Security staff members were badly hurt and started bleeding profusely. They were rushed to the Health Centre of the University for treatment. The students were once again appealed to let the remaining staff members come out but again these students threatened the security staff with dire consequences. However, the Security staff could manage the release of remaining staff members as well.

The safe rescue of the staff of the section without any medical/physical assault, seems to have irked these students and they started attacking badly the security guards wherever they found them alone. Two security guards were beaten mercilessly by these students and these guards were bleeding profusely. These students have also threatened the other security staff for another attack shortly. The injured staff members were rushed to the University Health Centre for medical treatment.

It may be underlined here that the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has already prohibited any dharna/demonstration within the radius of 100mtrs of the administration building. But these students confined the staffs and severely attacked the unarmed security staff within the administration building which is clear violation of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The University authorities have taken a serious cognizance of the above incident of disrupting the office work, stopping the University employees from discharging their duties, damaging the University property and attacking on the unarmed security guards who were rescuing the staff from the section.

The University Administration is looking into this unfortunate incident and assures the JNU Community that strict action will be taken against those who are found guilty of disrupting academic environment of the campus as per University rules. The University Administration also appeals to all the stakeholders to refrain from indulging in such disruptive activities.

  
(Registrar)