



HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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April 12, 2018

To

Mr. Srinivasa Kammath,

National Focal Point – Human Rights Defenders & Deputy Registrar,

National Human Rights Commission,

Manav Adhikar Bhawan,

Block-C, GPO Complex,

INA, New Delhi – 110 023

Email: chairnhrc@nic.in

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Appeal for Action – Madhya Pradesh - Ms. Asma Khan a student human rights expelled from Government Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya (MVM) in Bhopal for her post in Facebook – Regarding

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

HRD Alert - India is a Forum of Human Rights Defenders for Human Rights Defenders. It endeavours to initiate actions on behalf of Human Rights Defenders under threat or with security concerns.

We are now writing to express our grave concern regarding, a student leader Ms. Asma Khan being expelled from the Government Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya (MVM) in Bhopal over a Facebook post.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Media reports
- Interaction with the HRD Ms. Asma Khan
- Coordinator of HRDA for the East of India

The Human Rights Defenders:

Ms. Asma Khan is a second year student in Bachelors of Science (B.Sc from Government Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya. She is a member of the Bhagat Kranti Dal (BKD), a student organisation. BKD fought last election against the ABVP and won all seats in the student union of the college.

The Perpetrators:

Dr. Niraj Agnihotri, Principal Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya, Bhopal.

Date of Incident:

March 21, 2018

Details of the incident:

The student's union election in Government Motilal Vigyan Mahavidyalaya (MVM) was held in 2017 after 11 years. In the last year's student election the Bhagat Kranti Dal (BKD) contested and won all the posts of the student union of MVM College against the Akhil Bharatiya Vidya Parishad (ABVP), the student organisation of Bharatiya Janatha Party.

Members of BKD decided to celebrate Kranti Divas in the college auditorium on March 23 ,2018 and applied for permission from the college administration. Meanwhile, members of ABVP also requested for the same venue for celebrating Bhagat Kranti Dal. The college administration allowed both the student groups to celebrate the occasion jointly at the same venue. According to sources, as the members of ABVP did not cooperate with BKD in organising the event jointly, the event was organised separately by BKD members. This was objected by college administration and they cancelled the permission for the venue. Hence, members of BKD group went on a protest in the college campus against the order of the college administration and demanded to allow them to organise the event separately.

Meanwhile on March 19, 2018, Ms. Asma Khan posted in her Facebook page about the protest but by BKD, but she later deleted that on the next day.

Below is the text of her post which was later deleted:

"When they should have been studying, students have been forced to launch an indefinite hunger strike to wipe out seditious ideology from college. It's a

strange irony that there is an educational institution in India where students are patriotic and teachers unpatriotic”.

Two days later, the college administration decided to expel Ms. Asma Khan for one year from the college, without giving a chance to defend her. She went to meet the college principal on March 22, 2018 with her father but she was informed that, the teacher’s council has already taken decision on March 21 to expel her for an year. She then met the principal with her parents and requested to revoke the order against her and asked for a chance to defend herself.

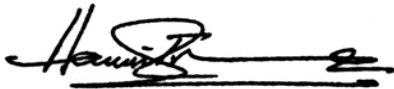
Appeal :

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps to ensure that ;

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of harassment of HRD by the college administration
- Ensure that the order of the college administration is reconsidered and Ms. Asma Khan is given a chance to explain about the social media post due to which she has been expelled and protect her right to freedom of speech and expression as enshrined in the Constitution of India

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,



Henri Tiphagne
Honorary Working Secretary

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