



# HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS' ALERT - INDIA

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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December 16, 2019

To

**Justice (Retd.) H.L. Dattu**  
Chairperson  
National Human Rights Commission  
Manav Adhikar Bhawan,  
Block-C, GPO Complex,  
INA, New Delhi – 110 023  
Email: [chairnhrc@nic.in](mailto:chairnhrc@nic.in)

Dear Sir,

***Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action –Delhi - Seeking Hon'ble National Human Rights Commission's urgent Intervention in respect of police brutality unleashed on peacefully protesting students of Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi by Delhi police on December 15, 2019 and gross violation of fundamental freedom of expression, association and assembly – Regarding***

**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.

On behalf of HRDA-India, we express our grave concern regarding the students of Jamia Milia Islamia University in Delhi who were brutally beaten on December 15, 2019 when they organised a peaceful protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed by the Indian government. This is the latest attempt in a series of actions where the State agencies have clamped down on university students and human rights groups critical of official policies. The protest inside and outside the Jamial Milia Islamia University intensified as Police entered the university to take control of the situation. Police blocked the entry and exit gates of the university, fired tear gas shells, lathi-charged protestors including students and rounded scores of them. The police entered the reading halls and campus mosque inside the university. According to the students police barged in when all students were inside the university campus. Around

20 policemen came from gate number seven and 50 others came from the rear gate. Dozens of students were injured in police action. The police did not even spare women. The policemen entered bathrooms, libraries and beat up girls. Police asked students to move out quickly with keeping their hands up. Students and their supporters have posted several videos of policemen beating up protesters and the action inside Jamia library. One of the videos showed a group of girl students trying to save their friend from being beaten up by policemen by forming a human shield. As many as 50 students were detained during protests at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

On December 15, 2019 thousands of people gathered outside the Delhi Police headquarters and shouted police “sharam karo (have shame),” after a protest call by the Jawaharlal Nehru University students. They demanded the release of the 35 Jamia students, who were detained inside the Kalkaji Police station since December 15, 2019 evening and were not allowed to meet anyone. Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar has demanded a high-level inquiry into the crackdown on university students. Addressing a press conference, Jamia Millia Islamia Vice-Chancellor said “police entered the campus on December 15, 2019 night without permission. She said “assaulting students who were studying in the library is unacceptable. The university property was damaged, who will pay for this loss. More than that this is taken an emotional toll on the students”. On December 16, 2019 Jamia students came back on the streets to demand action against Delhi Police over the violence on campus on 15 December, 2019 night.

HRDA most respectfully appeals that this Hon'ble Commission –

Takes urgent notice of this case of reprisal against peacefully protesting student human rights defenders of Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi and exercise all provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (PHRA) and orders an immediate, thorough, transparent, effective, time bound, impartial and independent investigation into the above-mentioned incident. NHRC need to publicly condemn this and ensure that legitimate peaceful work of HRDs are not further challenged by State agencies.

Urgently intervene in the matter referred above under section 12(d) of the Protection of Human Rights Act (1993), which empowers the NHRC to review the safeguards provided by or under the Constitution or any law for the time being in force for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation;

HRDA anticipates that these are pre-planned and deliberate attempts being made to delegitimize the work of human rights defenders in the country and thereby increase their vulnerability. Therefore, in the light of above mentioned facts, legal standards and circumstances, HRDA most respectfully appeals you to urgently intervene in such a grave situation urging Indian authorities to comply with their international obligations and commitments on freedom of association and other fundamental rights.

HRDA most respectfully appeals that in accordance with Section 18 of the Act, the Hon'ble Commission takes appropriate measures against officials responsible for violation of human rights or abetment thereof or negligence in the prevention of gross violations of fundamental rights and human rights in Delhi and elsewhere.

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri Tiphagne', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

**(Henri Tiphagne)**

National Working Secretary