



Human Rights Defenders Alert- India

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March 3, 2017

Mr. Srinivasa Kammath

National Focal Point - Human Rights Defenders & Joint Registrar,

National Human Rights Commission

Manav Adhikar Bhawan,

Block-C, GPO Complex, INA,

New Delhi – 110 023

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Dear Sir,

Sub: HRD Alert - India - Urgent Appeal for Action – Telangana: Denial of hall Ticket to appear for exams for student activists of Ambedkar Students Association in Hyderabad in Telangana – Regarding

Greetings from Human Rights Defenders Alert - India!

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

We are writing to express our grave concern regarding the ill-treatment and mental harassment of civil rights activist, women human rights defenders Ms Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M S.

Source of Information on the Incident:

- Media Sources
- The Regional Coordinator of HRDA for South of India

Status of the Human Rights Defenders:

Ms Kavyasree Raghunath is presently the General Secretary and Ms Manasi M S is the Cultural Secretary of Ambedkar Students' Association of The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and pursuing M.Phil in Centre for Translation Studies at UoH. They are also former students of EFLU -English and Foreign Languages University Hyderabad. Both have applied for Ph.D in Translation Studies now.

The Perpetrators:

The Proctor Mr. Kona and others at English & Foreign Languages University Hyderabad

Date of Incident:

February 25, 2017

Place of Incident:

English and Foreign Languages University Hyderabad, Telangana State, India.

Incident detail:

According to sources, The UoH administration has denied hall tickets for Ph.D. entrance examination held on February 25, 2017, to Ms. Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M.S, who had applied for the same. Both of them are currently pursuing M.Phil in Translation Studies.

The reason for the denial of the hall tickets given by the Proctor Mr. Kona is their active political participation in the struggle in a campaign "Justice for Rohith" in UoH, which took place in the wake of institutional murder of Mr. Rohith Vemula in January 2016.

They have now approached the EFLU administration for a clarification on the non-availability of online hall tickets, but the proctor refused to provide convincing reply and stated "You both were actively participating in all protests of Justice for Rohith Vemula everywhere, I have all the photographs of you two on my table". The proctor advised them to write a letter to the Vice Chancellor Prof. Sunaina Singh to convince her about their accidental appearance in the mentioned photographs.

The Proctor and the Vice Chancellor in the EFLU have made many restrictions and rustications in the past years, in which many student scholars have very

direct experiences with the administration refusing to provide hall tickets for certain student Ph.D. entrance examinations in Arabic Language and Literature. The reason was that they accused him of beef eating in the campus premises in a beef festival conducted on December 10, 2015, at Osmania University, Hyderabad. A case had been filed against few students who participated after an immediate show-cause notice and rusticated them from appearing entrance examinations in EFLU.

Appeal:

We, therefore urge you to immediately take necessary steps and:

- Order an immediate, independent, thorough, transparent, effective and impartial investigation into the above-mentioned incident of denial of hall tickets and ill-treatment and harassment of women student human rights defenders Ms. Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M.S;
- Take immediate action to ensure that Ms. Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M.S are able to write the exams without any fear and harassment;
- Guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M.S who are under the risk of further reprisals from the university authorities and using all provisions of law to ensure that the defenders are not harassed in future;
- Ensure provision of reparation, compensation, apology to the family of the defender for the psychological sufferings they have undergone due to the harassment and denial;
- Put an end to all acts of intimidation and harassment against all students like Ms. Kavyasree Raghunath and Ms. Manasi M.S and ensure that in all circumstances they carry out their activities as student defenders of human rights without any hindrances;

Looking forward to your immediate action in this regard,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Henri Tiphagne

National Working Secretary

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Chairperson,
National Human Rights Commission,
New Delhi
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