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PRESS RELEASE

The current stance of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WBJDF) movement, and the ruling party's attitude towards it, pose a significant threat to the democratic principles of the state. Numerous incidents indicate that state authorities and police forces are attempting to suppress facts and divert attention from the movement. Recent cases of violence, including rape and murder at RG Kar, Jaynagar, Krishnanagar, and other parts of West Bengal, have revealed severe shortcomings within the system, particularly its inability to ensure public safety.

The current government has been silencing the voices of protesters seeking justice and fair trials, utilizing tear gas, batons, and water cannons against peaceful demonstrators. This oppressive environment has also impacted students at Jadavpur University, where five students were recently arrested by Kolkata Police while peacefully protesting for justice for Abhaya during the "Abhaya Parikrama" march. These students, who were merely exercising their right to protest, were unjustly charged with "rioting." This demonstrates how the state is leveraging legal mechanisms to suppress the voices of protesters and students alike.

In light of these circumstances, we call upon everyone to stand united against the increasing acts of oppression perpetrated by the ruling government and its administration. We, as members of the Jadavpur University community, express our full support for the ongoing movement seeking justice for Abhaya, as well as the WBJDF's demands for safety in the healthcare sector and an end to the culture of intimidation across campuses, communities, and villages.

As stakeholders in Jadavpur University, we believe it is crucial to actively participate in this movement. To this end, we are forming a joint platform named "JU for JUstice," comprising students, alumni, research scholars, workers, staff, and teachers. We will present a seven-point Demand Charter and stage a sit-in demonstration starting on October 17, 2024, at 7 PM in front of Gate No. 4 of Jadavpur University. This demonstration will be held under the united platform of "JU for JUstice."

We also invite the general public, who have steadfastly supported this movement over the past 66 days, to join us. Our collective efforts will continue until justice is achieved and our demands are met.

Our Demand Charter:

- 1) We stand in full solidarity with the movement for justice for Abhaya and endorse the WBJDF's demands, which must be fulfilled immediately.
- 2) Those arrested unlawfully during the Abhaya Parikrama must be released unconditionally.
- 3) Union elections must be conducted without delay.
- 4) The judicial process concerning the institutional murder of Swapno (a first-year undergraduate student from the Bengali department) must be expedited. All accused parties should be thoroughly investigated and brought to justice without delay. An investigation must be launched to examine the role of authorities involved.
- 5) Immediately construct GSCASH (Gender Sensitization Committee Against Sexual Harassment) with elected representatives. Deliver verdict in all pending cases registered previously in ICC (Internal Complaints Committee).
- 6) All recent fees hike in academic and non-academic sector must be rolled back, restoring the previous fee structure.
- 7) The politics of fear and the culture of intimidation must be eradicated from all educational institutions.