



जनवादी लेखक संघ

انجمن جمہوریت پسند مصنفین (مہاراشٹر)

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Date: 11.02.2024

PRESS RELEASE

JLS condemned the attacks of BJP Activists in Pune on freedom of art and expression, demanding strict action

On February 2 this month, the play 'Jab We Met', which was being staged as an exam assignment at Savitribai Phule, Pune University's Fine Arts Center, was disrupted by the RSS-BJP affiliated student organization ABVP and caused ruckus and vandalism. ABVP and BYUM registered an FIR against Prof. Pravin Dattatreya Bhole and five other students, on the basis of which these six people were arrested. The university administration sided with the rioters and called their statement not only an apology for hurting sentiments but also a 'parody of a mythical or historical figure' as 'completely wrong and prohibited'. After that, the meeting of the management council of the university on February 6 started with the slogan of 'Jai Shriram' by many members.

Exactly the same situation was witnessed in 2022 at Sayajirao University in Varoda, Gujarat where members of ABVP vandalized an exhibition being held for the evaluation of examinations in the Faculty of Fine Arts, before the commencement of the exhibition and then vandalized the artwork. Feelings were 'hurt', the varsity syndicate dismissed its perpetrators, first-year student Kundan Yadav, and issued show-cause notices to his teachers, supervisors and the dean of the faculty.

A few days after the Pune University incident, a lecture by 66-year-old senior journalist Nikhil Wagle, lawyer Asim Sarode and Vishwambhar Chaudhary and their colleagues was held by the Nirbhay Banon Vichar Manch in Pune on February 9. All of them were detained by the police for 3 hours before leaving to the venue. they were chased by the mob of BJP workers and attacked with stones, ink, egg and iron bars 4 times at different places within half an hour on Prabhat Road, Karve Road, Shastri

Marg and Dandekar Bridge. The assailants severely damaged his car in a deadly attack. But Pune Police did not arrested any BJP workers at the time of attack.

The 'Janwadi Lekhak Sangh' strongly condemns this hooliganism and murderous attacks on organizations associated with radical Communal organisations. These attacks are direct attacks on freedom of expression. For the past several years, writers and intellectuals who have questioned the government have been targeted. After the attack, Nikhil Wagle tweeted that "This attack happened with the collusion of the police. They are not afraid of this attack and it can not stop their voices. This is the land of Jotiba Phule and Ambedkar."

Janavadi Writers Sangh condemns the attack on Savitribai Phule Pune University and the attitude of the administration and police in this regard. The central executive of the JLS also demanded that the charges levelled against the chairman and students of the Faculty of Fine Arts should be withdrawn and that appropriate action should be taken immediately against those who created ruckus and vandalism in the name of hurting sentiments.

In Maharashtra, attacks by frenzied mobs are increasing in BJP regime. The role of the Maharashtra government in all these attacks ambiguous. These brutal violent attacks are attempt to forcefully suppress freedom of expression. The Janawadi Lekhak Sangh demanded the strict police action against these fascist attackers of RSS-BJP workers. JLS Maharashtra State Committee strongly condemned these two recent violent incidents and has appealed to all the artists and writers associated with the art and writing fields of the country to openly oppose this oppression.

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