Press Release – Visva-Bharati, 13 January, 2023

Response to the written communication to the Hon'ble President of India by a set of teachers (mostly Bengali and are from Jadavpur University which is a strange coincidence).

Visva-Bharati condemns the teachers who are organized to stop the processes of purging Visva-Bharati of truant and deviant teachers, including Prof. Sudipta Bhattahcharya who claims to be the leader of an organization that has no institutional recognition; it is perhaps his personal baby which he always shows to falsely gain political mileage. Visva-Bharati also anguishes to note that those who are signatories to the petition have signed without knowing the involvement of Prof. Bhattacharya's nefarious activities including avoidance of shouldering academic responsibilities that a teacher generally undertakes. Not only is Visva-Bharati taking ample care in identifying those who are involved in destroying the core values which its founder Rabindranath Tagore upheld and also remain negligent in attending the rituals which Gurudev Tagore initiated for spreading his philosophical priorities. It is unfortunate that the self-proclaimed custodians and morally sensitive academics, mainly from West Bengal happily champion the blatant thuggery of a set of academicians in Visva-Bharati which are directed to continue with the plans for devastatingly damaging the academic foundation of universities in the state and elsewhere.

Following are some of the endeavours which Prof. Bhattacharya undertook during the last few years to undermine academic freedom and tranquility of the campus with the help of a set of hoodlums from outside and also some of the miscreants who claims to be students of Visva-Bharati.

1. Prof. Sudipta Bhattacharya was given show cause notices 14 times and was charge-sheeted 14 times. In response to the charge-sheets, he denied all, though, prima facie, the charges were established. He was asked to face the Enquiry Committees which were constituted to ascertain the authencity and also veracity of the charges. Out of the 14 Enquiry Committees constituted to examine the numerous charges against him, he only cooperated with two and both those committees proved the charges against him. When the reports were placed before the EC, it took a decision to consider all 14 Enquiry Committee reports together.
2. When Dr. Swapan Dasgupta, a former Rajya Sabha member, was invited to speak on the CAA in Visva-Bharati in January, 2020, he was prevented from entering the Hall and violently heckled by a band of goons who claimed to be students, led by Prof. Bhattacharya. We had to shift the venue of Dr. Dasgupta's talk to a hall in Sriniketan. Prof. Bhattacharya reached the new venue with the hooligans who claimed to be students of the university and gheraoed Dr. Dasgupta, the Vice Chancellor, a number of administrative officials, and those who came to listen to Dr. Dasgupta's talk for more than 7 hours, till almost 2 am. The gheraoed individuals were rescued with the intervention of the hon'ble Home Minister of India, Shri Amit Shah.
3. In late April, 2022, a class XII student of Patha Bhavana committed suicide and Prof. Bhattacharya and his band of hooligans who claimed to be students broke the main gate of the Vice Chancellor's residence and many miscreants entered the premises along

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with the corpse, accusing the Vice Chancellor of having had a hand in the student's death. Video proof of Prof. Bhattacharya's active involvement in breaking the gate is available. Prof. Bhattacharya and his band of hooligans tried to break into the Vice Chancellor's house. Mr. Vineet Joshi, the Additional Secretary, was informed of these alarming developments, and no police help was forthcoming; only with the intervention of the Hon'ble former Governor of West Bengal, Shri Jagdeep Dhankarji, did the police come to the rescue of the Vice Chancellor at 11-30 PM.

4. Prof. Bhattacharya verbally incited students to violently attack the Vice Chancellor and his security staff on 23 November, on which occasion the aforementioned band of hooligans consisting of students as well as outsiders claiming to be students gheraoed the Vice Chancellor inside his chamber for fourteen hours (between 2 pm and next morning, 3-30 am). Only with the help of the university security guards was the Vice Chancellor released in the morning of 24 November. Video records are available.

5. The Vice Chancellor was placed effectively under captivity for 20 days inside his official residence when the same band of hooligans led by Prof. Bhattacharya erected temporary camp near the said residence and obstructed all the Vice Chancellor's attempts to exit his residence. Despite repeated SOS calls and appeals from the Vice Chancellor himself, the police turned a blind eye to and severely downplayed the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Vineet Joshi is aware of this because he was informed at the time of the incident. The Vice Chancellor was able to break out of captivity with the help of the university security guards, who formed a human chain around him.

6. On 13 December, 2022, when the Vice Chancellor was walking back from his office to his residence, Prof. Bhattacharya was reportedly one of those miscreants who pelted stones at the Vice Chancellor which hit him on the back of his head for which the Vice Chancellor needed medication. Video clips are available.

7. Given Prof. Bhattacharya's involvement in such violent activities for more than three years, the Executive Council proposed the termination of his service to Visva-Bharati. This decision was made unanimously by the Executive Council of the University.

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