

# ATTACK ON DILIP SIMEON

*Issues Beyond Delhi University*

SUSPEND DR. KARTAR SINGH

ORDER C.B.I. PROBE

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( PEOPLES UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS )

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The University Community has justly risen in unanimous protest against the premeditated attack on Feb. 11, 1982 on Dilip Simeon, a history lecturer in Ramjas College. The existing threat to professional and intellectual pursuits of the University Community has now extended itself to life itself. Ultimately they question the very idea of academic pursuit, the very institution of university and the very possibility of protesting against injustice. In that sense the issues raised by this incident go beyond the Ramjas College affairs or even beyond the Delhi University.

It has now become an accepted fact of our social life that any form of opposition will face severe repression by the State. NSA & ESMA, increasing police brutalities, the systematic suppression of legitimate political movements are indicators of this growing repression. Such repression has now permeated into campus life all over India.

Increasing government intervention can be seen in the form of abolition of elections to the higher bodies of the University in Andhra, appointment of IAS & IPS Officers as Vice-Chancellors in U.P., formulation of history syllabus, an attempt to raise a para-military force in the name of University Security Force in Bihar, State take over of Universities in Orissa and indiscriminate arrests of students in Osmania and Kakatiya Universities.

In our own University, the role of local politicians and businessmen in governing bodies, the brazen criminality and the criminal indifference of authorities towards the staff of Rao Tula Ram College & the deprivation of Karamcharis right to strike are indicators of this slow erosion of University's independence and autonomy.

A more significant factor of our social life today is not merely the state repression but the direct intervention of ruling forces in full strength to stifle the freedom of challenge. They are no longer satisfied with what the government is doing on their behalf. Armed landlord attacks on agricultural labour in Patna, the murder of a trade union activists in U.P., the massacre of Dalits in Deoli and Sachapur are some recent instances of such direct violence. The State machinery everywhere acquiesces in such violence on the citizens. Under public pressure some investigation and punishment may take place now and then. But the fact that the trend is on the rise shows that the state is indifferent, if not actually sympathetic to this growing trend of direct violence by the ruling forces.

The engineered attack on Dilip Simeon, who had protested against the Ramjas College authorities, ushers this trend into Delhi University. For this incident threatens not only the present functioning of University but its future existence as well. We can now no longer afford to entertain the illusion that academic activities can be pursued in disregard of the democratic rights movement. This incident threatens not only the right to professional pursuit of every teacher, Karamchari and student, but also their very existence. The defence now lies in strengthening the democratic movement.

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Hence the nature of our struggle must transcend its present limits. It must seek to eliminate the channels through which state and private interests are increasing their power over our University. The University Community must rise to demand complete autonomy from the government and the replacement of all governing bodies with joint councils of teacher, karamcharis and students.

This alone, in the ultimate analysis, guarantees the intellectual, professional and democratic rights of the University Community and help fulfil its obligation towards the society.

22nd Feb., 1982

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JOIN US -

EVERY SATURDAY - 3.00 P.M.

VENUE - IRIVENI KALA SANGAM  
MANDI HOUSE

(Peoples Union for Democratic Rights)