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The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations

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For Immediate Release

RESOLUTION

TO CONDEMN THE USE OF POLICE FORCE AGAINST AMU STUDENTS, AND
TO DEMAND RESIGNATION OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Washington, DC (December 20, 2019):

The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations (FAAA), on behalf of its member associations across the United States, strongly condemn the use of force against the AMU student demonstrators. It is appalling that the Vice-Chancellor asked the police in writing to enter the campus and forcibly drag students out of their hostel rooms. The Police beat the students without any mercy for merely exercising their constitutional rights to demonstrate against the enactment of the patently discriminatory Act. (i.e. Citizenship Amendment Act). It is shameful that the AMU administration has closed the university without any regards to students' well-being- especially to the poor and out of state students who may not have resources to leave or places to go within hours' notice. For example, where would Kashmiri students go and how will they reach their homes under the security circumstances in that state. Similarly, allowing police to arrest students from their rooms and take them to remote locations for interrogation not only jeopardize their physical well-being but also their job prospects within and outside India. They may be criminally charged, and those charges may stay with them for rest of their lives.

Student movement in India has a glorious history that goes back to more than two hundred years. Students protested in King Edward College in 1920 against academic discrimination between Indian and English students. Nav Nirman Andolan in Ahmedabad in 1974, Bihar Student Movement (or JP movement) in 1974, students' movement against emergency in 1975, and Assam Movement are just few to name. AMU students have always been in the forefront of many of these movements and have played a significant role in strengthening the democratic institution and principles that exist today in India.

Alas! these institutions and principles are under attack today. And when the students have risen again to protect these institutions and principles, their voices have been muzzled, their physical well-being is challenged, and their future has been compromised.

At such a juncture, the AMU Vice-Chancellor should have been with the students, supporting their demands, and protecting against police atrocities. Particularly when their demands are for more inclusive and non-discriminatory laws to benefit the society at large, and nothing for their personal gain,

It breaks our hearts to learn that the VC did exactly the opposite- asked the police in writing to enter the campus and use all necessary force to crush their voices.

The main purpose of the FAAA is to help and promote the interests of the students. Under the circumstances, it is unfathomable for us not to support our AMU students and not to condemn the Vice-Chancellor's actions. It is impossible to work with the Vice-Chancellor on any activities, invite him as the head of the institution, or honor as AMU VC in United States. The FAAA has lost complete faith in his leadership and demand that he should immediately resign and allow the healing process to begin with a new leadership at the helm.

It is our collective decision to not invite and/or honor this Vice-Chancellor in US. We will also communicate our resolution to the Government of India, the Executive Council of the University, and other concerned individuals/organizations.

Therefore, be it resolved; And the FAAA demands that:

1. Vice-Chancellor should resign immediately.

2. Under the new leadership, university should be opened, and students should be brought back with immediate effect.
3. University should work with police and other agencies to get the students released from custody and make sure that the records of their arrest are expunged.
4. Provide all necessary help to the students including medical treatment/s.
5. Allow peaceful demonstrations without a fear force and intimidation.

Signed by the President of the FAAA and on behalf of all the associations.

/Salim Shah/