

**FDIR**

30.3.10

From **Admissions** of Students  
to **Appointments** in Faculty Positions.....

**Unite against**  
JNU administration's **ever new tricks**  
to scuttle reservations and  
**flout** constitutional mandates on  
social justice !

**On 31 March in front of**  
**Reconvened AC Meeting**  
**at SSSI at 2pm**

join

**Protest Demo**  
**and Dharna**

**in defence of correct implementation of**  
**reservations in admissions and**  
**faculty positions**

In recent weeks, through their spirited participation and resolute agitations, the students of JNU have asserted that they stand opposed to the casteist forces and are united in the struggle for social justice. Through the pressure of an indefinite hunger strike and the massive mobilization of students, we were able to pressurize the Academic Council meeting of 18th March to reject the Aditya Mukherjee Committee recommendations which have for long impeded the proper implementation of OBC reservations. While this struggle has borne fruit, we must remain vigilant in the days ahead to ensure that the administration does not continue with its old tactics, or find new ways of subverting social justice.

The AC meeting of 18th March was also meant to discuss the issue of SC/ST reservations for faculty members. The strong presence and arguments of several teachers in favour of reservations prevented the AC from endorsing the JNU administration's anti-reservation designs. **The balance of forces at this AC was in favour of SC/ST reservations in faculty posts. However, a vote on the issue could not take place since the meeting was adjourned.** As a result, the AC meeting has been reconvened tomorrow (March 31st) to take a final decision on the issue, in keeping with the MHRD guidelines on the basis of which JNU had issued an advertisement for 149 faculty posts in 2009.

**FDIR holds that while there is space in the university for discussions and debates of all kinds, when it comes to bodies like the Academic Council or the Executive Committee of the University, their task is to EXECUTE AND UPHOLD the law of the land.** Further, SC/ST reservations for faculty members constitute a provision that the university is duty-bound to implement, because they flow from the Indian Constitution itself. **However, the casteist lobbies in the university would have us believe that these reservations are a 'guideline' that can be rejected at whim and are not binding in the university in any way!** But when 23 of 27 central universities are in the process of implementing these directives, surely JNU can have no excuse for shying away?

We cannot forget the brahminical arguments that were made by certain 'luminaries' where they openly argued that to implement reservations for faculty members would lead to the academic decline of JNU and the best students would automatically move to private institutions or abroad. Such sentiments will no doubt be on display in tomorrow's AC meeting as well and will have to be rebuffed.

The inequalities bred by the caste system necessitate struggles for social justice. A university such as ours cannot be an ivory tower, an enclave of the elite and privileged, but must reach out to all sections of society and cannot close its doors to them. **Whether for students or faculty members, the JNU administration has repeatedly tried to impede the implementation of reservations.** At the present juncture, we must continue to strengthen the struggle against JNU administration, against the casteist lobbies and their brahminical mindset.

FDIR appeals to all students, we must ensure that the casteist and anti-reservation lobbies do not have their way. We need a powerful assertion so that those sitting in the seat of power fulfill their responsibilities and uphold social justice, instead of taking recourse to false debates on 'quality' and 'merit'. **FDIR calls upon the student community to participate in large numbers in the protest demonstration and dharna tomorrow (March 31st) during the AC meeting in front of SSS I from 2 pm onwards.**

**Forum for Defending and Implementing Reservations (FDIR)**

*Rajesh, Aqsa, Shivani, Abhishek, Sandeep Saurav, Puneet, Anoop, Madhulika, Akhilesh, Atif, Ashutosh*