

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNIQUÉ

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

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JNU INCIDENT: SUPPRESSION OR PATRIOTISM?

INTRODUCTION:

The Jawaharlal Nehru University row has left India divided into two fragments- one side is taken by the central government and other members of the society who have put the students in the bracket of terrorists, jihadists, pro-Pakistanis while the other is taken by the teachers, artists and students who are protesting against the university crackdown. On February 9, the students of the university planned to organise a cultural programme, a protest march against the 'Judicial Killing of Afzal Guru' on his third death anniversary named, "A country without a post office- against the judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhatt" and also to display solidarity with Kashmiri migrants.

AFZAL GURU- A MARTYR:

According to Indians, Afzal Guru was a terrorist who was convicted for his role in attacking Parliament in 2001. However, the final judgement of the Supreme Court that sentenced him to death said that he was merely going to be hanged till death to meet the collective conscience of the society. The Apex court said, "In the light of the above discussion, can it be said that the circumstances established by satisfactory evidence are so clinching and unerring so as to lead to a conclusion, unaffected by reasonable doubt, that the appellant Shaukat was a party to the conspiracy along with his cousin Afzal? We find that there is no sufficient evidence to hold him guilty of criminal conspiracy to attack Parliament." This is the reason why the protests had started. For Kashmiris, the reason behind the agitation was not only that Afzal didn't get a fair trial, but even that the hanging was just another way of repressing those who dared to challenge India's control over the disputed region. Further on which added fuel to the fire was that his body was also not handed over to his family or his family wasn't allowed to meet him for the last time, is a festering wound, unlikely to be forgotten. Guru is nothing less than a martyr in their eyes.

STUDENTS' VERSION:

A firsthand account from a second year student, Harshit Agarwal, present during the protest describes the incident as "On February 9, ex-members of DSU had called for a cultural meeting of a protest against what they called 'the judicial killing of Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat' and in solidarity with 'the struggle of Kashmiri people for their democratic right to self-determination.' A lot of Kashmiri students from inside and outside the campus were to attend the event" A student, who was a member of the organising committee of the event, told *The Hindu*, "The programme was a cultural evening organised to question the working of the Supreme Court. It was also meant to bring the grievances of the Kashmiri citizens to light. The struggles of 'self-determination' must be openly spoken about. Considering this is a democratic republic, why should dissent be suppressed?" During the protest, they shouted slogans which many people feel were alleged to be completely insensitive and also against the country. They shouted the slogans like- Baharat ki barbadi, Kashmir ki azadi, Paksitan Zindabad. All these slogans 'independently' might be overlooked on account of freedom of speech. However putting it altogether (as this happened during the same protest) paints a different picture.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS- INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY:

The protest meeting on the third anniversary of the execution of Afzal Guru, the protesting students shouted anti-India slogans and called him a martyr. The Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) protested against it, leading to a fight. After this was reported to the police, they pressed the charges of sedition on unknown persons under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. JNU set up a proctorial committee on 11th to inquire into the event which later barred eight students from academic activity pending an enquiry, though they would be allowed to stay as guests in the hostels. The same day Maheish Giri, the BJP Lok Sabha member from East Delhi, lodges an FIR against 'anti-national' students of varsity. Former Delhi University lecturer SAR Geelani was booked for sedition in connection with an event at Press Club of India, in which a group shouted slogans about Afzal Guru. The president of Jawaharlal Nehru University's students union (JNUSU) Kanhaiya Kumar was arrested by Delhi police, under Sections 124A (sedition).

On February 14, the Patiala House court witnessed brutal violence as a mob, wearing lawyer's robe, thrashed the supporters of Kanhaiya Kumar. The attacks began when Mr. Kumar was planned to appear before metropolitan magistrate and went on for 45 minutes during which any young who appeared in front of the mob or had a camera with them was slapped, kicked and chased away from the premises. The journalists and students were subjected to the violence, while the older men and women were frightened by the violent behaviour.

This brutality wasn't enough to satisfy the extremists, they even went ahead and unleashed violence against Kumar, moments before the hearing was scheduled. The witnesses to this brutality were the Delhi Police officers who again filled the role of a "silent spectator" as attackers defied the Supreme Court's order for restricted entry to the trial court complex, bashed up Mr. Kumar en route to his court hearing. Three ABVP members resigned from their positions in the University unit of the party, citing ideological differences. In the letter written by the three students jointly, they have "dissociated themselves" from any further activity of ABVP. The letter further mentions that they cannot be the "mouthpiece" of a government that has unleashed oppression on student community

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES:

The incident overall grabbed the attention of the political parties, everyone trying to use the row to their advantage. Communist Party of India General Secretary Sitaram Yechury met the Union Home Minister and demanded the release of a student over sedition charges. Rajnath Singh asserted that no innocent will be harassed but the guilty "will not be spared" when he was questioned on the police action against students including arrest of JNUSU leader. Union Minister Kiren Rijju said the premier academic institute cannot be allowed to be a hub of anti-national activities. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ordered a magisterial inquiry into the JNU incident and accused the Prime Minister of using the police to "terrorise everyone". Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi said the government is trying to crush students' voice in the country. The JNU protests were successful in dividing the opinions of the Parliamentarians into one side which consisted of the people who considered them as anti-nationalists and condemned their actions while on the other side their actions are considered to be well in bounds of the freedom given to them.



INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK:

The national perspective of the incident is very subjective, but it is necessary to understand in which light has India been portrayed in the international economies. An opinion column in New York Times stated that 2015 was a 'turbulent year on Indian campuses' as the students were coming out in large numbers and speaking against 'caste prejudice, appointment of BJP loyalists in varsities, etc'. Criticising the Modi government, the article stated, 'the message is clear-violence in the name of ultra-nationalism is accepted'. The article in BBC mentioned that Jawaharlal Nehru University is seen as 'India's Berkeley' because of influence of left ideology on the campus politics. The article states, "India presents a mixed picture

where, on the one hand, we regularly see the use of sedition laws to curtail political criticism even as we find legal precedents that provide a wide ambit to political expression."

The media house Dawn reported, "The incident marks another flare-up in an ideological confrontation between Modi's nationalist government and left-wing and liberal groups that is prompting critics to compare it with Indira Gandhi's imposition of a state of emergency in the 1970s to crush dissent," the report said. The report concluded by mentioning the attack on people by 'fanatic Hindus' over killing of cows and returning of awards by the intellectuals and writers over growing intolerance in the country. A statement in Al-Jazeera on February 19 highlighted the fact that current Modi regime was being accused of polarisation, 'promoting sectarian prejudice' and 'authoritarian tendencies'. "The government has also been accused of trying to repress free speech and tacitly ignoring extremist nationalists who intimidate critics of the BJP," The opinion article in The Guardian called it a 'face-off between state repression and intellectual freedom, which has been some time in the making, may well turn out to be a watershed moment for the country'.



AFTERMATH:

Nearly 5,000 people from different walks of life, students, teachers, activists and artists are in the JNU protesting in "Defence of Democracy and Right to Dissent". They formed human chains, raised slogans and burnt effigies to end what they call as the 'witch-hunt of students in the University". It not only affected the working of the university and its affiliated student bodies but created an overall impact on different sectors of the economy. The budgetary session, which began on February 23, was overshadowed by the JNU controversy and concerns regarding growing intolerance in the country. The current political climate in the country is a result of many years of right wing assault on the freedom of expression. It isn't that it has started all of a sudden but it has been growing and now it has taken a monstrous shape. Incidents like the Hyderabad Central University, JNU, the exile of M F Hussain, and the killings of Narendra Dabholkar and M. M. Kalburgi, have led to this. This is the reason there is a threat to Indian democracy today.

Contributions are invited for the further issues of the CASIHR newsletter. The last date of submission would be 15th of every month and it can be mailed on casahr@rgnul.ac.in.

TRIVIA

- It is estimated that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives.
- Research has shown that for every 10% increase in women's literacy, a country's whole economy can grow by up to 0.3%.
- Nearly 1 out of every 5 deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease..
- Women continue to participate in labour markets on an unequal basis with men. In 2013, the male employment-to-population ratio stood at 72.2 per cent, while the ratio for females was 47.1 per cent.

DAYS OF MONTH

- International Women's Day- 8th March
- World Consumer Day- 15th March
- World Forestry Day- 21st March
- World Day of Water- 22nd March

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the University of Victoria survey, 15 percent of the sex workers who took the survey reported having gone through a work-related injury while performing services for a client.



Water links us to our neighbour in a way more profound and complex than any other.

*-John Therson
Medal of Honour Recipient, US*

HUMAN RIGHTS OF SEX WORKERS

INTRODUCTION

Prostitution has prevailed since times immemorial, but it is still considered a taboo in a democratic country like India. Sex workers constitute one of the most stigmatized and marginalized community in today's world. There are two perspectives of the society regarding the sex workers. The traditional feminist perspective assumes that all the sex workers are coerced, bribed, blackmailed, and forced into the trade as no one would ever make a conscious choice of making money from sexual exploitation. The other perspective says that as sex work is a business and a person chose to be in it, therefore he should bear the pains of it as well. But, no one speaks of the dire need to change the legislations to accommodate the rights of 12.63 lakh sex workers of the country.

PRESENT SCENARIO

The sex workers live in low-paying, humiliating and exploitative work conditions and are denied access to basic health or housing services. They are a constant victim of beatings, rape, harassment, discrimination, and other sorts of violence. The government officials and police are no better, who use Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 as a tool to blackmail and exploit sex workers instead of preventing them from the same. The stigma in the society regarding the sex workers restricts them from getting proper health facilities. The sex workers are not recognized as equal citizens, workers and members of a social and political community with human rights. They are subjected to the worst forms of violence and exploitation, physical as well as psychological. They are not only beaten up by the clients, but also by the pimps, under whom they work. They are powerless in the brothels and have no one to listen to their miseries. And, in this lead sky, the future of their children also gets suffocated. While living in those catacombs, they seldom have any means to get proper education or upbringing. As a result, they grow up either taking up the same profession or get involved in various crimes, such as drug dealing. This becomes a never ending loop for all the sex workers and thus, there is no exit from this black hole.

BRINGING ABOUT CHANGE

Gradually, the workers are becoming aware of their rights. A collective action has been taken up by these sex workers to unite themselves and end all forms of violence and abuse. Sonagachi is the largest red light area in Kolkata. Awareness was raised with the onset of Sonagachi Project, which was initiated by the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health (AIHH&PH) in 1992 as the STD/HIV Intervention Programme (SHIP), in consultation with the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of West Bengal, and World Health Organization (WHO). As a result, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee was set up. This committee is a collection of nearly 65,000 sex workers. It is a very active organization which has been working towards the advocacy of women's rights and the sex workers' rights, anti-human trafficking and the prevention of HIV/AIDS. In 1997, they took a big leap by setting up self-regulatory boards in red light districts, comprising advocates, doctors, National Human Rights commissioners and local politicians. With this, a sex workers' cooperative bank was also established so as to empower the sex workers economically and to prevent them from the intimidation and threats from the money lenders in the brothels.

CONCLUSION

Democracies need to make laws that actually improve the lives of sex workers. It is the time for democracies to include sex workers in policy making, not just because the democracy mandates it, but also because sex workers clearly know the areas where they require protection, including but not limited to health, safety and equality, so that their basic human rights are ensured and not at the mercy of others.

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS...

INDIA SLID BEHIND ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2015, SAYS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

India experienced several backslides on human rights in 2015, according to an annual report released by human rights group Amnesty International. It was observed by Aakar Patel, Executive Director of Amnesty International India that the government intensified restrictions on civil society organisations, even as attacks on freedom of expression grew, and impunity for abuses by soldiers, police and businesses were ignored by both state and central governments.

Censorship and attacks on freedom of expression by Hindutva groups grew, according to the report. It specifically referred to the trend that emerged later in the year of artists, writers and scientists returning national honours to protest against what they called a climate growing intolerance. The specific triggers were the murder of a Muslim man in the Uttar Pradesh town of Dadri for storing and eating beef, as well as the murder of Kannada writer MM Kalburgi allegedly by right-wing activists. The report also expressed concern about increasing attacks on women. It noted that the LGBT community continues to face discrimination in India.

DISPATCHES: INDIA'S COW PROTECTION GROUPS RAISE TENSIONS

Hindu cow-protection groups have waged an aggressive and polarizing campaign to protect cows, which most Hindus consider sacred. They allege, usually incorrectly, that cows are being slaughtered by Muslims, who eat beef. The campaign has even received tacit support from some leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. It is in this context that late last week, a Muslim cattle trader, Mohammed Mazlum Ansari, 35, and a 12-year-old boy, Mohammed Imteyaz Khan, were found hanging from a tree in Jharkhand. Their hands were tied behind their backs and their bodies bore signs of mistreatment.

The police have reportedly arrested five men, including a person linked to a local cow-protection group. Police say they are still investigating whether this was a hate crime against Muslims or a case of loot and murder, but the incident has stoked legitimate fears of further bloodshed. In many Indian states, including Jharkhand, it is already illegal to slaughter cows, and in some states, eating beef is forbidden. But vigilante groups seem to have little faith in the law. Last year, Hindu mobs killed at least four Muslim men and led several other attacks across the country.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE HL DATTU WILL BE NEXT CHAIRPERSON OF HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

Former Chief Justice of India Justice Handya Lakshminaraswamy Dattu was today selected as the next chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission. A committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared the name of Justice Dattu for the post which was lying vacant for the last eight months after the retirement of KG Balakrishnan.

65-year-old Justice Dattu had retired as Chief Justice of India on December 2 last year and after taking over as NHRC chairperson he will have a tenure of five years. The name will be sent to the President Pranab Mukherjee for his nod. Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the president appoints the chairperson and members of the NHRC on the recommendation of the high-powered committee headed by the prime minister

INDIA MUST END REPRISAL AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: WANI

While taking part in general debate Altaf Hussain Wani, the representative of International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations to Geneva has said that the special procedures are important mechanism of Human Rights Council for strengthening the capacity of states to improve their human rights record. He said that although number of special procedures and mandate holders are increasing but it was quite astonishing that despite all these measures we see more victims, more conflicts and more repression. Wani pointed out that it was because of the reluctance of the states to implement the recommendation of the Special procedures.

Seeking HRC's urgent attention toward the outcome of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of India he said the country (India) was handed over 169 recommendations to improve its HR record but it failed miserably to implement the recommendations. He said India was asked to repeal draconian laws like armed forces special power act, public safe act and foreign contribution regulations act besides ratifying the convention against torture, enforced disappearances and inhuman and degrading treatment of people but notwithstanding to the HRC recommendations India did not implement even a single recommendation of the Council. Referring to Special reporteur on Extra Judicial Summary and Arbitrary Execution Wani told the delegates that whatever little steps India had taken were still lingering in legislative process.

AROUND THE GLOBE...

LOTTERY APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA IS PUTTING THOUSANDS OF LIVES AT RISK

Amnesty International in a new report said that the lives of millions of women and girls across Latin America are at the mercy of "lottery-style" health care systems that prioritize religious doctrine and stereotypes over the lives of patients. The study explores access to sexual and reproductive health care for women in eight countries. It reveals that access to basic rights such as contraception, safe abortions or sterilizations usually depends on the wealth of the patient and the personal and religious views of the health professionals or public officials. Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International stated that tragically, for women across Latin America, receiving life-saving medical treatment depends on the good will of a health professional or the depth of her pockets. This outrageous and utterly illegal lottery-style approach to health care is putting thousands of lives at risk.

ENCRYPTION: A MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Government attacks on the encryption of online communication threaten human rights around the world, warned Amnesty International in a briefing published today as tech giant Apple challenges the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in court over an order to provide software to bypass iPhone encryption. The briefing, Encryption: A Matter of Human Rights, which is Amnesty International's first official stance on encryption and human rights, says that people everywhere should be able to encrypt their communications and personal data as an essential protection of their rights to privacy and free speech.

With online censorship and surveillance a growing threat to human rights, undermining encryption could threaten the ability of people around the world to freely communicate and use the internet, such as human rights activists who challenge the authorities, journalists who uncover corruption, and lawyers holding powerful governments to account, Amnesty International said. Several countries already limit who can encrypt their communication or the strength of encryption allowed, such as Cuba, Pakistan and India. Others, such as Russia, Morocco, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Colombia, sometimes go as far as banning it altogether.

RUSSIA: NADIYA SAVCHENKO MUST GET A RETRIAL AFTER 'DEEPLY POLITICIZED' GUILTY VERDICT

The case of Ukrainian helicopter pilot Nadiya Savchenko, found guilty of murder today by a court in southern Russia, must go immediately for a fair retrial, Amnesty International said. John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's Director for Europe and Central Asia stated that it was abhorrent to send Nadiya Savchenko to prison after such a flawed, deeply politicized trial. He further added that the litany of dubious procedures and

decisions by the presiding judge over the course of this trial shows a clear contempt for due process and suggests Nadiya never had a hope of proving her innocence. The only way justice can be delivered both for Nadiya, and the journalists who were killed, is for there to be a full and impartial investigation into her allegations and a retrial that remains free of political interference and complies with international fair trial standards.

GREECE: CHAOS ERUPTS AT IDOMENI BORDER AS BALKANS ROUTES SHUTS DOWN

The chaos at the Greece-Macedonia border crossing of Idomeni with 7,000 asylum-seekers stranded in dire conditions amid a heavy security build-up is the result of a shameful spate of discriminatory border closures, said Amnesty International. Giorgos Kosmopoulos, Director of Amnesty International Greece stated that there seems to be more willingness among European countries to coordinate blocking borders than to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with protection and basic services. A police agreement in mid-February between all countries on the Balkans routes appears to have triggered the exclusion of Afghan nationals from admission at border crossings, while the European Union also increased pressure to stop the practice of "waving through" refugees and asylum-seekers.

He suggested that every single person, no matter what their nationality, has a right to seek asylum and the right to be treated with dignity. Practices that deny admission to specific nationalities of asylum-seekers and refugees are unlawful and can result in pushbacks. Tensions are rising as more and more refugees and migrants continue to arrive without any clarity on what will happen to them next. Infact a group of people were met with tear gas from Macedonian security forces when they tried to break through the border fence.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. International Women's Day (IWD) has been observed since in the early 1900's - a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies. "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights," says world-renowned feminist, journalist and social and political activist Gloria Steinem. International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The 2016 theme for International Women's Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". The idea of this theme is to consider how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals, especially goal number 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and number 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning. The theme focuses on new commitments under UN Women's Step It Up initiative, and other existing commitments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights.

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ROE VS. WADE**Facts:**

In the year 1969 a pregnant woman Norma L. McCorvey wanted to abort her child but the law did not allow an abortion except in cases of rape and incest and on medical advice to save the mother's life. Her attorneys filed a suit in the US District Court on 17th June 1970 the three judge bench declared the Texan Law which prohibited abortion as void and vague. The other plaintiffs in the suit were a doctor who was also charged under the same law and a couple. In appeal the case was clubbed with similar matters which considered the validity of laws considering constitutionality of Statutes in Columbia which criminalized abortion in normal circumstances.

Issue Raised:

Several issues regarding the legality of abortion statutes in various states were raised which are as follows:

- a) Do the Abortion laws in the United States violated the Constitutional Mandate?
- b) In what circumstances laws prohibiting abortion can be enacted?
- c) Does the right to privacy under the 14th Amendment include the right to abort a child?

Judgment:

The Supreme Court held the laws unconstitutional as they did not take into consideration the stage of pregnancy and also declared it unconstitutional for violating the due process clause according to the fourteenth amendment. The court held that the woman and her doctor are entitled to make the decision with regard to termination of pregnancy with any restrictions at least in the early months of pregnancy. Relying on common law principles court pointed out that an abortion performed before quickening was not an indictable offence. The court put forth the rules regarding abortions in the different trimesters and held that the abortions during the first trimester should only be conducted upon the approval of the woman's doctor. In the second trimester the states may regulate the abortion procedures to protect the female's health and lastly during the last trimester the states may even prohibit the abortions and may only allow in certain circumstances when abortion becomes necessary to save the pregnant woman's life.

The court held that the regulations which would disallow abortion may only be framed in larger public interest. The court also held that the 14th Amendment's due process clause protects the right of privacy and gives women the right to terminate pregnancy but this right is not absolute and state interest must be kept at a higher pedestal. While as Rehnquist J. dissenting pointed out that right to an abortion is not universally acceptable and thus right of privacy is not involved in this case.

Analysis:

It is hard to believe that privacy could encompass something as broad and complicated as Abortion. It is also disagreeable that the founding fathers of the American Constitution supported it nor was it the purpose of the 14th amendment to grant this right to women- the proof of which lies in the fact that the Right to abortion wasn't contested until 100 years later before Roe v. Wade. The Supreme Court has already turned its back on "planned parenthood" and privacy angle in many cases following Roe. In 1973, they only talked about privacy relying on Griswold v. Connecticut which is a completely different issue; as the pivotal question isn't just about whether or not a woman has the right to prevent a childhood, it's whether she has the right to destroy a childhood- a fine distinction.

The biggest mistake made by the court was that they ruled that personhood wasn't something that they could determine at the time. While a lot of discussion centred on philosophical and theological ideas, the science behind why these laws were put in place in the first place was completely ignored. These premature abortion laws were put forth at the behest of the American Medical Association who released a report in 1857 detailing medical proof of the fact that life began at conception and abortion was therefore an unwanted destruction of life.

However in 1992, Planned Parenthood v. Casey upheld a series of restrictions on abortion rights, setting up a new era of anti-abortion activism, and a new anti-abortion strategy of making abortions increasingly difficult to get instead of trying to outlaw the procedure wholesale. Today, this piecemeal strategy is working, as abortion regulations have shut down clinics across the country and left the vast majority of American women living in a county with no abortion provider. A federal law passed in the aftermath of Roe bars all federal funds from paying for abortion services for low-income women, and many states block Medicaid from covering abortion for low-income residents who depend on that program for their health care. Those rules have been upheld by the Supreme Court.

The issue of Abortion is complex and personal and maybe avoiding addressing without the rigid labels of 'pro-life' and 'pro-choice' can lead to a healthier dialogue on women's reproductive rights. The primary arguments of the lawyers defending Roe were based on a woman's constitutional right to privacy including her right to terminate her pregnancy. The 43 year old case has been upheld throughout the country for finally stating that women had the right to an abortion "free of interference by the State."

*Roes vs. Wade 410 U.S. 113"

DONALD TRUMP'S POLICIES: VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

INTRODUCTION:

Pernicious sloganeering in the name of patriotism is what sets Donald J. Trump apart from rest of the potential presidential candidates in GOP. This brand of campaigning has touched the hearts of the average Americans who are facing the brunt of the collapsing administrative policies followed by President Obama in his second term. Trump has won over his supporters by reinventing the notion of the American Dream to be achieved by restoring the country to its former glory.

Donald John Trump is an American businessman, politician, television personality, and candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in the 2016 elections. What makes him contentious is his immigration policy, and his views on religious minorities, Muslims in particular. His immigration policies have been heavily criticized as being violative of human rights and compared to that of Adolf Hitler's. And this coming from a potential American President is alarming.

HIS CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES:

One of Trump's recently published statement about his immigration policy says that there must be a wall built across the southern border (with Mexico), which would stretch for 1000 miles and cost around 12 Billion dollars to construct. He also mentioned that Mexico must pay for the wall. Additionally, Trump wants to "Cut-off federal grants to any city which refuses to cooperate with federal law enforcement [in regards to immigration law]." (i.e. sanctuary cities) And he wants to end birthright citizenship, claiming "no sane country would give automatic citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants."

As of now, more than 11.7 million Mexican immigrants reside in the United States, accounting for 28 percent of the 42.4 million foreign-born population- by far the largest immigrant origin group in the country. Also, in 2013, a Department of Homeland Security report estimated 11.4 million unauthorised immigrants were living in the

United States. Trump's suggestion of deporting these immigrants and building the wall, thus creates a problem of international concern.

One of the main arguments advanced by Trump for his xenophobic policies is that Mexican immigrants are rapists or criminals. However two studies, one from the American Immigration Council and the other Immigration Policy Centre claimed that immigrants are less likely to be criminals than those born in the United States and Immigrants as a whole have lower crime rates than the native born population.

Apart from the immigration, Trump also drew worldwide outrage over his comments suggesting that he would impose a total and complete ban on Muslims entering the US, after he's elected. His comments were termed as "grossly irresponsible" by the UN Human Rights Chief. Donald Trump's future policies are also nearly universally condemned—both in the U.S. and around the world, being termed as "hate rhetoric". The French Prime Minister in his statement said that Mr. Trump strokes hatred, which was reiterated by a spokeswoman for British Prime Minister David Cameron, calling Trump's remarks "divisive, unhelpful and quite simply wrong." Trump has consistently said he supports marriage "between a man and a woman" whenever asked over the years, and has made his public stance clear on the issue saying he's against gay marriages.

CONCLUSION:

In short, Trump's proposals show a disregard for the United States' commitment to international bodies and human rights charters that forbid discrimination. If implemented, these impractical policies would create massive human rights violations for the racial, sexual and religious minorities in the United States of America and tensions and unrest world-over. Therefore, the international community must raise its voice against such divisive plans to ensure that the human rights of the vulnerable are not compromised or overlooked in America or anywhere across the globe.



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