

URGENT ACTION

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARRESTED AFTER PROTEST

Eight university students and three members of a political party's student wing in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh have been in detention since 7 June. The students had participated in a protest against the Lucknow University and the state Chief Minister by carrying black flags and trying to block the state Chief Minister's convoy. A local court in Lucknow has denied them bail.

Eight Lucknow university students together with **Mahendra Yadav, Vineet Kumar Kushwah** and **Ashok Kumar Prabhat**, who are members of the Samajwadi Party Chatra Sabha student wing, were arrested and detained on 7 June. The students had participated in a protest against Lucknow University for what they claimed was wasteful expenditure of university funds, and the state Chief Minister's participation in an event organized by the university. The Samajwadi Party Chatra Sabha claims that the university's administration had refused to release funds for academic programmes, but funded a function to promote the newly-elected state government's divisive politics. Before the event, the students carried black flags while outside the university and tried to block the state Chief Minister's convoy.

The students are accused of offences including unlawful assembly, rioting, assault or criminal force against a public servant, and criminal intimidation. If found guilty, they could face up to three years in prison. On 10 June, a local court denied them bail, stating that the offences against them were of a serious nature. They have been remanded in judicial custody till 24 June.

Satwant Singh, Nitin Raj, Pooja Shukla, Anil Kumar Yadav, Ankit Kumar Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Madhurya Singh and **Apoorva Verma** have also been suspended by Lucknow University, where they are studying.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Immediately and unconditionally release all the arrested students, and drop all charges against them, as they are being detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Pending their release, ensure that students are protected from torture and other ill-treatment;
- Respect and protect the rights of all people in the state to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

Contact these two officials before 27 July, 2017:

Chief Minister
Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh
Room No.- 306, (Third Floor)
Lal Bahadur Shastri Bhawan, Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh- 226001
Fax: +91-522-2239234
Email: cmup@nic.in
Salutation: Dear Sir

Ambassador H.E. Navtej Sarna
Embassy of India
2107 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington DC 20008
Phone: 202 939 7000
Fax: 202 265 4351
Contact Form: <https://www.indianembassy.org/pages.php?id=15>
Twitter: @IndianEmbassyUS
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 145.17*

Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Freedom of expression in universities in India has come under increasing attack in recent years. In February 2016, three students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, were arrested on suspicion of sedition for allegedly chanting 'anti-India' slogans. In March 2016, students and faculty at the Hyderabad Central University were assaulted by police and arrested for protesting against the return of a vice-chancellor who they held responsible for the suicide of a young Dalit scholar. Several student-organized events relating to human rights issues have been cancelled by university authorities in recent months following threats and violence from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, a student group affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh a Hindu nationalist organization.

Name: Satwant Singh, Nitin Raj, Pooja Shukla, Anil Kumar Yadav, Ankit Kumar Singh, Rakesh Kumar, Madhurya Singh, Apoorva Verma, Mahendra Yadav, Vineet Kumar Kushwah and Ashok Kumar Prabhat

Gender m/f: Both

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