

Resolution

An unprecedented and unwarranted incident of assault, insult and intimidation occurred with judge of the cadre of district judge Dr. Dinesh Pradhan, presently posted at Aurangabad Bihar. All India Judges Association acquired firsthand information from Dr. Dinesh Pradhan and from Shri Ajit Singh, secretary of the Bihar judicial Services Association. From the information received it transpires that on the evening of 21/10/2020 at about 6:30 p.m. Dr. Pradhan came out from the apartment, where he resides in a flat, for evening walk and was about 50 to 60 meters away from his apartment. He saw a group of policemen, about 30-40 in numbers, coming from the other direction of the road. Dr. Pradhan walked to the side of the road to let the policemen pass. One constable from among them, however, started to yell at Dr. Pradhan in unparliamentary language as to why he is present on the road when police is passing from the road. Dr. Pradhan politely requested him not to address him in such a language as he is a respected person of the society and occupying the post of a judge. Because of this statement of Dr Pradhan, the other members of the police force were agitated and started to instigate colleagues by wielding their lathis to catch hold and thrash Dr Pradhan as he is arguing with the police.

Dr. Pradhan apprehending lynching by the group of police started to run towards the apartment. The police men chased him to the apartment shouting to open fire on him, entered the apartment which was guarded by security man and started to search for Dr. Pradhan. The group of reserve police force, indulged in this illegal and barbarous activity, was accompanied by some local police officers. The apartment, where Dr Pradhan resides, is also occupied by other 3 judicial officers. Before this assignment Dr. Pradhan was working as Chief Judicial Magistrate at Aurangabad and looking after administration of Courts of Magistrates. There is every possibility that the local police officers were aware that the apartment is occupied by Judges and may also be aware of the Identity of Dr Pradhan. These aspects create possibility of a deliberate attempt to terrorize trial court judiciary by use of force.

This act of police officers is not only in violation of fundamental rights but it is also in violation of all the pre-existing norms of democracy which require that the police officers must behave gently with the citizens and respect the dignity of members of justice delivery system. The incident is widely reported in newspapers, clips of which are circulated through social media in judicial fraternity. The judges of trial court judiciary throughout India are intimidated and hurt on reading the facts of incident reported. The All India Judges Association therefore adopts following resolution,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT All India Judges Association condemns barbarous, unwarranted, unrequired, unsocial and offensive act of police officers of using criminal force, insulting and intimidating Dr Pradhan, District Judge of the Bihar Judiciary.

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED THAT All India Judges Association will take up the issue with the higher authorities of police officers of Bihar police demanding immediate suspension and arrest of the police officers involved in this criminal act and also request registry of the honourable Patna High court to pursue the matter and take it to its logical end for restoring the morale of judicial officers of Bihar Judiciary, who are deeply shaken by this incident.

IT IS ALSO RESOLVED THAT if the police department of Bihar avoids to take any action against erring police officers then the matter will be taken on judicial side before hon. Supreme Court seeking appropriate directions.

Resolution is passed on this 25th day of October 2020 on approval of the executive committee by circulation.

Dr. Ajay Nathani
General Secretary
All India Judges Association