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End to attacks on university teachers, students urged

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 12:44am on August 02, 2018

Seventy-four academics, lawyers, writers, socio-cultural, political and rights activists on Wednesday called for an end to attacks on teachers and students of universities and falsehood against Dhaka University professor Akmal Hussain over his remarks condemning Bangladesh Chhatra League's atrocities on protesters for quota reform.

The made the demand in a joint statement sent to media by National Committee against Fascism and Imperialism.

The signatories included Dhaka University professor CR Abrar, Jahangirnagar University professor Anu Muhammad, Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan and social and rights workers Zafrullah Chowdhury, Shirin Akhter and Nur Khan Liton.

They expressed deep concern over 'planned attack', harassment and humiliation on the teachers at Dhaka and Chittagong universities for supporting quota reform movement and for their demands to stop assaulting students.

They said that by intentionally distorting the remarks of professor Akmal Hussain denouncing attacks on students and teachers, Dhaka University Teachers Association was on a process of achieving different ill wishes creating troublesome situation.

They demanded physical and professional security of Chittagong University teachers Maidul Islam and Ali Al Rajib.

Professor Akmal at a rally under Teachers against Repression at the Dhaka University recently tried to rationalise the roles played by his colleagues Tanzimuddin Khan and Fahmidul Haq as protectors of quota reform who had been targeted by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

Tanzim and Fahmidul were being undermined by the ruling party supporters as the duo put no footprints during the Liberation War in 1971.

Professor Akmal argued that people's non-participation in the Liberation War did not undermine their eligibility to protest against any injustice as prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her father, on whom all the wartime political activism were centred, did not physically participate in the war.

Dhaka University Teachers Association found Akmal's speech derogatory to country's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the prime minister and demanded actions against Akmal by the home ministry and the Dhaka University authority.

Association leaders were presenting Akmal's speech partially to media, and the statement on Wednesday called for an end to the falsehood.



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