

Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

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Urgent Press Release

**Clarification regarding the minority issue of JMI pending litigation in the
Hon'ble Delhi High Court**

The issue of the Minority character status of Jamia Millia Islamia has been pending in the Delhi High Court since 2011 through a bunch of Writ Petitions wherein the respondents are National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Secretary Minority Affairs, VC, Registrar, JTA, Jamia Students Union, Jamia Alumni and others. The university was surprised to read a report in a national daily on 19.03.2018 that MHRD has withdrawn its earlier affidavit and submitted a fresh affidavit opposing the minority character of the Jamia Millia Islamia before the Delhi High Court.

A total of five Writ Petitions were filed by different people in 2011 challenging the minority status of the Jamia Millia Islamia wherein not only the Jamia Administration but different groups associated with Jamia Millia Islamia have been made respondents.

The revised affidavit dated 5th March, 2018 has been filed by the Dy. Secretary of MHRD, Dept of Higher Education, through the Central Government Standing Counsel Sh. Arun Bhardwaj opposing the minority character of JMI. **The court record shows that advance notice of this affidavit along with the application was served only to the Petitioner's lawyer i.e. Sh. Vijay Kumar Sharma and other respondents including VC, Registrar, JTA and others were not served with any advance notice by the Delhi High Court, contrary to the rules.**

JMI will file its objections to the revised affidavit in accordance with due process of law. The affidavit filed by the Central Govt in the Hon'ble High Court will be taken up during the main hearing. The matter is listed in the category of 'Regular Hearing' which may be taken up by the Chief Justice's Bench in near future or **later date which is not fixed**. The matter will be defended by the respondents as and when it is taken up by the Hon'ble High Court.

Contrary to the aforesaid legal and factual position, it is unfortunate that certain section of the press has carried misleading and distorted versions with regard to the manner in which JMI is handling its minority issue case in the Hon'ble High Court. Some media organizations have not adhered to the basic ethics of journalism of taking the university version. It appears that there is a false and slanderous campaign orchestrated by vested elements who are trying to malign the name of the university and its administration. JMI administration reserves its right to take legal action against such defamatory content including referring the matter to the Press Council of India and the Editor's Guild of India.

Since MHRD, Government of India is relying on Aziz Basha's case disputing that Jamia is not established and administered by the minority but by the Act of Parliament it requires an in-depth interpretation of Article 30 of the Constitution of India which gives minority right to establish and administer an institution of their own choice which has been settled by a plethora of cases decided by the Supreme Court.

It is a legal battle which will be hotly contested in the Court by all respondents and therefore it is requested to all concerned to refrain from drawing any inference or conclusion at this stage.

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