



INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (H.Q.s.)

(Registered under the Societies Act XXI of 1860)
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IMA/HSG/Press/08-3/2024

16/08/2024
New Delhi

IMA DEMANDS CENTRAL LAW

PRESS RELEASE

The RG Kar incident has brought to fore the two dimensions of violence in the hospital: A crime of barbaric scale due to the lack of safe spaces for women and the hooliganism that is unleashed due to lack of an organised security protocol. The crime and the vandalism have shocked the conscience of the nation. Today both the medical fraternity and the nation are victims.

Solutions and demands:

1. At policy level the reluctance to acknowledge the violence on doctors and hospitals has to change. A Central Act incorporating the amendments of 2023 in the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 into the draft Hospital Protection Bill of 2019 would strengthen the existing 25 state legislations. An Ordinance as in during the covid pandemic is in order.
2. The security protocols of all hospitals should be no less than an airport. Declaring the hospitals as safe zones with mandatory security entitlements is the first step. CCTVs, deployment of security personnel and the protocols can follow.
3. The 36 hours duty shift that the victim was in and the lack of safe spaces to rest and adequate rest rooms warrant thorough overhaul of the working and living conditions of the resident doctors.
4. Meticulous and professional investigation of the crime in a timeframe and rendering of justice. Identify the hooligans of vandalism and award exemplary punishment.
5. Appropriate and dignified compensation to the bereaved family commensurate with the cruelty inflicted.

IMA has declared 24 hours withdrawal of services by all the modern medicine doctors of the country irrespective of the sector and place of work. Emergencies and the casualties will function. No OPDs. No elective surgeries. The withdrawal commences at 6 am on Saturday 17th August 2024 and ends at 6 am on Sunday 18th August 2024.

IMA asks for the understanding and support of the nation in this struggle for justice for its doctors and daughters.

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