



"Work for Unity, Solidarity & Dignity of Medical Profession"

Indian Medical Association

JALANDHAR BRANCH

*Registered Under Societies Act, XXI of 1880 *Member of the World Medical Association
Mutually Affiliated with the British Medical Association & Nepal Medical Association
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Press Note 6/9/2019 – Mob Violence against Patel Hospital

This press note is to call your attention to the events in Patel Hospital on 31st August 2019 and onwards. On 31st August 2019 a violent mob entered the premises of Patel Hospital on the pretext of violation by Patel Hospital of a municipal road. The mob destroyed and demolished the gate of the hospital as well as the wall, all of which belongs to the private legally authorized property of Patel Hospital.

The violence was conducted against the hospital by certain anti social elements with outside backing. It is to be noted that there is a subjudice matter in the High Court against the faulty design of TP scheme 27, in which the judge has been pleased to make the municipal corporation a party and order that no action may be taken against the Patel Hospital without any notice. Despite this being in the notice of the authorities, the mob was instigated by vested interest to demolish the hospital wall and Gates.

We have reviewed the relevant video footage & evidence brought to light. We condemn this act of violence against Patel Hospital. The violence endangered the lives of doctors, medical staff and patients inside the hospital. It is surprising that no action has been taken by the authorities despite a complaint being lodged with the police. We want to know why our FIR has not been lodged by the appropriate authorities in this matter as it has caused much damage to the hospital.

As you know under the Punjab Medicare protection act 2008, attacks against hospitals, doctors, medical staff and patients are cognizable non-bailable offences.

The wholesale chemist association and the said elements have made an unrealistic demand of creating a road through a previously existing sanctioned 5 storey building of a hospital. An attempt is being made to convert this into a political issue and demolish a part of the legally authorized property of the hospital.

We request the authorities to direct the wholesale chemist organization and the said antisocial elements to follow the law and respect the decision of the lawmakers.

The strike by the wholesale chemist organisation is totally unjustified and has caused a lot of discomfort to the hospitals and further to the patients in accessing medicines. However, arrangements have already been made to access medicines from other towns, and there is no disruption in the medical supplies in the hospitals. Wholesale Chemist Association should work towards creating a pleasant working environment between the hospitals and the chemists & promote patient care rather than try to break and demolish hospitals.

We demand the lodging of an FIR against these antisocial elements on an immediate basis pursuant on the police complaint on 31 Aug, and warn that the medical community will be prepared to resort to all lawful methods in association with the Patel Hospital administration necessary for the realization of this purpose. In case of nonresolution of this matter by Monday the IMA and Nursing Home Association will take very strict action against this hooliganism.

Dr Harish Bhardwaj, President, IMA Jalandhar