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THE TIMES OF INDIA

WBCPCR disappointed with 'hatchet job' by JU to 'shrug off responsibility'

TNN | Aug 18, 2023, 08.23 AM IST



Kolkata: The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights has lashed out at Jadavpur University authorities for “attempting to shrug off responsibility” in the death of a minor at its hostel and failing to chart out a roadmap towards systemic reforms to eradicate ragging and other malpractices from the campus. Expressing extreme displeasure at the reply sent by the JU registrar to the show-cause notice sent by the commission regarding the student’s death, the commission felt the response reflects the gross insincerity of the university administration.

The commission has sent a second show-cause letter to the university, asking why action/proceedings should not be initiated against them for acting in violation of UGC regulations and Supreme Court judgment on the issue.

Rights body asks add stringent Pocs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: The West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR) has asked the police to add stringent sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, against those who had tortured Swapnadip Kundu, the first-year undergraduate student who died after a fall from the second-floor balcony of the Main Hostel of Jadavpur



University on Wednesday night.

Speaking to **TOI**, WBCPCR advisor Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti, who met Swapnadip's parents, brother and maternal uncle at the latter's Ranaghat house on Sunday morning, said Pocso was applicable in the case as Swapnadip was yet to turn 18 and he had been tortured and sexually harassed during the ragging session at the university hostel located outside the campus. Swapnadip would have turned 18 on October 31.

“Swapnadip's brother Ratnadip said he had called him hours before his fall and ultimate death and repeatedly said he was not gay. The seniors in the hostel — be they current students, former students or outsiders — had clearly harassed him on the issue of sexual orientation. He was also found naked on



WBCPCR advisor Ananya Chatterjee C

body.

The family learnt about it while applying ghee on his body before consigning it to the flames in the early hours of Friday.

“This fact should find mention in the post mortem report. If the family members have not mistaken

**WBCPCR ADVISOR AT
SWAPNADIP'S HOME**

tion. He was also found naked on the ground after he took a fall. Pocso is most definitely applicable in this case," she said.

The former WBCPCR chairperson also learnt from his father and uncle that there were cigarette burns marks all over Swapnadip's

the marks, and there is no reason believe that they would have imagined them, Swapnadip was subjected to physical torture, again a case of Pocso," Chakraborti said.

So disturbed was she after the visit that she then went to Jada

“The commission is deeply disappointed with the hatchet job that the university authorities seem to be doing in order to cover up their incompetence and lack of intent in resolving the problem,” the letter sent by the commission to JU said.

Speaking to TOI, commission advisor Ananya Chatterjee Chakraborti said the university had provided standard generic replies to pointed questions that were sent following a visit to the hostel and the university after meeting the victim’s parents in Nadia on Sunday.

“We had learnt from the hostel superintendent that his movement was restricted to the ground floor and he was not allowed to go to the upper floors in the hostel. In the past, when he ventured upstairs, he was locked in a room all night and accused of theft by students. Though he called the administration, he received no support or help and was left to fend for himself. When we asked why the university had not acted on the matter, the university said the super had the authority to inspect rooms,” said Chakraborti.

To another question on what actions were taken to prevent ragging, the university’s answer was that first-year students had been accommodated in a separate hostel. “The shift happened overnight after the student’s death.

It had nothing to say on what measures it had taken to prevent ragging in the first place," she said, adding that the replies did not contain any hint of remorse over what happened.