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# Evict former students from hostels within 24 hours, Calcutta HC directs Jadavpur University

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KOLKATA: Calcutta High Court directed Jadavpur University to do a room verification of the student hostels and ascertain how many university pass-outs were residing in the hostels. The court directed the university to file an affidavit after asking the pass-outs to vacate the rooms within 24 hours.

## LEGAL TAKE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya made the observation on Tuesday</li> </ul>	<p>directions to universities/ institutes based on recommendations of R K Raghavan Committee on ways to stop ragging</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It directed JU to file the affidavit by Sept 26</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The bench also directed UGC to assist the court with regard to implementation of anti-ragging guidelines it had issued to varsities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It directed the state to file an affidavit on implementation of SC</li> </ul>	

A division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya made the observation on Tuesday. Suwendu Adhikari's counsel Soumya Majumdar submitted that records of hostel boarders since 2007-2008 indicated that there was reason for such an apprehension.

It directed the university to file the affidavit by September 26, including setting up of the anti-ragging panel and squads. The bench took on record the paper book submitted by JU containing the university statutes and resolutions passed by its executive council from time to time. The bench directed the state to file an affidavit on the implementation of the Supreme Court directions to universities/institutes based on the recommendations of the R K Raghavan Committee on ways to stop ragging.

The bench also directed the UGC to assist the court with regard to implementation of the anti-ragging guidelines it had issued to universities.

Counsel for the Science Faculty Students' Union (SFSU) submitted that the tenure of the union had come to an end. "Many of the union officer bearers passed out of the university. The SFSU floated a proposal duly signed by

400 students of the faculty in the meeting called by the university registrar to discuss ways to stop ragging on campus. The meeting has been adjourned," the counsel submitted.

Senior counsel Bikash Bhattacharya represented the Arts Faculty Students' Union (AFSU) . There was no representation from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Students' Union (FETSU).

The chief justice held that the bench was willing to hear class representatives in case they came forward with their responses over the implementation of the UGC guidelines against ragging.

Senior counsel Kalyan Bandopadhyay drew the court's attention to the fact that the students' unions of the three faculties in JU despite being "defunct" were issuing statements on several issues, including ragging. The bench held that defunct students' unions should not make any press release or make press statements when their tenures had expired.

Advocate general S N Mookherjee said the bench in its earlier order had directed proper lighting of the campus, installation of CCTV cameras and year-wise allocation of seats of students in JU hostels.

Majumdar brought to the notice of the bench that UGC had stopped grants to JU since 2016-17. "The university is running on salaries to employees provided by the state. Moreover, the state has asked for Rs 273 crore from JU as fee for renewal of lease of the university property," he said.