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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

21, Rouse Avenue Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 002

Press Release Dated 18.02.2021

The brutal and horrific murder of Advocate couple (Gattu Vaman Rao and his wife P. V. Nagamani) in broad daylight in Telangana in public view proves that there exists a severe threat and attack on the independence of the Bar. The frequent threats and attacks on the lawyers have established that the Advocates are not at all safe anywhere in the country.

This is an onslaught on the freedom of the profession. It is proving to be exceedingly difficult and even fatal for the Advocates taking up the peoples cause.

The Bar Council of India has taken the matter very seriously and it has strongly condemned such acts. The Council has also fully supported the resolutions taken by the State Bar Council of Telangana in this regard. The Council on the request of the Hon'ble Representative-Member of the Bar Council of India from the State of Telangana Mr. P. Vishnuvardhana Reddy has resolved to write a letter to Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court to take judicial notice of the incident and pass an order for independent and impartial judicial inquiry into the incident.

The Council has also written a letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana State to declare and provide some meaningful help and financial assistance for the family of the concerned Advocate including Government Job for the dependent family member/s.

It is very shocking to note and mention that the deceased had filed a PIL case against custodial death in police station and some other cases against some leader of the ruling party in Telangana and the horrific incident has taken us back to the days of anarchy and lawlessness and goondaraj.

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The Council in its resolution has decided to write to the Hon'ble Chief Justice Ms. Hima Kohli as it appears that there is no possibility of an independent and impartial investigation by the police because of the aforesaid reasons.

The Council has also demanded from the Union Government to provide proper protection to the lawyers of the country and to pass some Law for the protection of lawyers. This is the high time when the Union and the State Government should take-up the issue with all sincerity failing which the Advocates of the country would take recourse of a countrywide agitation.

The Council expects an appropriate response from the Hon'ble High Court as well as from the Government at the earliest.

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(Manan Kumar Mishra)

Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Chairman, Bar Council of India

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