

When AJYCP tries to maintain a movement



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AT New Delhi 29 November 2016 Updated 4 Jan 11382 views

Assam's influential organization [Asom](#) Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad along with few other influential groups from northeast [India](#) staged a demonstration on Monday in the national capital protesting [against](#) the Centre's move to amend the Citizenship [Act](#), 1955.

Led by [AJYCP](#) president Biraj Kumar Talukdar and general secretary Palash [Changmai](#), the protest demonstration witnessed the participation of few hundred protesters held at Jantar Mantar of [New Delhi](#).

“The NDA government at the Centre is trying to settle the Bangladeshi Hindu nationals in Assam to strike political advantages. We find it difficult to understand that despite [Bangladesh](#) Prime Minister’s assertion that no Hindu nationals are harassed in the neighbouring country, the move to roll out red carpet to the neighbouring nationals itself suggests a political interest,” said a [AJYCP](#) statement.

It also added that the BJP-led government has no right to downplay the sentiments of the millions of northeastern people and the [AJYCP](#) won’t remain calm unless the politically motivated move is abandoned. The [New Delhi](#)-based Naga Students Association, [Manipur](#) Students Union, [Tripura](#) Students Association, Khasi Students Union, along with many JNU and Delhi University students participated in the demonstration. [SFI leader](#) Prashant Kumar and [Tripura student leader](#) Dharanjit Debbarma also joined the protest with a pledge to carry forward the movement.

Meanwhile, in the backdrop of an uproarious atmosphere in Assam [against](#) the Union government’s move to [grant citizenship](#) to religious minorities from [Bangladesh](#) and Pakistan, a nationalist people’s forum raises voice for a concrete refugee [policy](#) for the country to [deal](#) with such situations in future.

Patriotic People’s Front Assam (PPFA), in a recent memorandum sent to Assam [Governor](#) Banwarilal Purohit, argued that [India](#) should have the refugee [policy](#) ‘to [deal](#) with the issue of immigrants logically and legally’ forever.

“We sincerely believe [India](#) should [sign](#) the 1951 United Nations Refugee Convention. Moreover, our government has to ratify the 1967 Protocol relating to the status of [refugees](#),” said the memorandum, signed by some distinguished personalities including eminent historian Dr Nirode K Barooah, former director general of [National](#) Museum Dr Rabin [Dev](#) Choudhury, eminent publisher Giripada [Dev](#) Choudhury, award winning filmmaker Manju [Bora](#), IIT Kharagpur professor Gourishankar S Hiremath, Banaras Hindu University professor Anil K Rai with many others.

The memorandum also expressed concerns that few ‘recent misleading and manipulative statements by some individuals and organizations on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill [2016](#) issue’ were ‘trying to communalise the issue instead of helping to find an amicable solution’.

“The extremely volatile utterances targeting the Hindu minority [community](#) of Assam are deplorable and condemnable to say the least,” asserted the memorandum, endorsed by senior journalist DN Chakrabarty, non-resident [Assamese](#) professionals Vavani Sarmah & Kalyan Dutta-Choudhury, Ravindra Nath, Dipannita Jaiswal, Jahnabi Goswami, Pranab Kr Sarma, Pranjal Saikia, Jitul Sonowal, Dr Subhra Kinkor Goswami, Onkareshwar Pandey etc.

“We are from this land of glorious civilisation & culture and we feel that our spirit should be that of accommodation of Hindu’s, Buddhists, Christians, Sikhs and other religious minorities who have had to face extreme suppression in erstwhile East Pakistan (now [Bangladesh](#)) and also [West Pakistan](#) and have been the true [victims](#) of partition of [India](#),” pointed out the memorandum, backed by DN Chakrabarty, Rupam Barua, Bidhayak [Das](#), Utpal Dutta, Bobita Sarma, Braja Jyoti Sharma, Bibekananda Choudhury, Bhagawat Pritam, Ujjal Saikia, Jagadindra Ray Choudhury, Girindra Kumar Karjee, Anup Sarma etc.

Appreciating the Centre for taking steps lately to provide shelter to the [victims](#) of partition across [India](#), the PPFA clarified that the Hindu minorities in [Bangladesh](#) include not only Bengali, but also Rajbongshi, Hajong, [Adivasi](#), Jayantiya and Bishnupriya communities. Similarly, the Buddhists include [Chakma](#) and some [Assamese](#) people who fled to the Chittagong hill areas of [Bangladesh](#) during the Burmese invasion. The Christians include Bengali, Garo, Khasi and [Adivasi](#) people. All these people became the [victims](#) of Pakistan plan & partition and had to live in a ‘foreign land’, for the creation of which they were not responsible, commented the forum.

The memorandum clarified that PPFA has no intention of communalising the issue but it wants to ‘provide a clear understanding of how history unfolded lest some vested interests and parochial mindsets for their own narrow political gains and cheap mileage would continue to resort to disturb the peace and tranquil atmosphere of Assam’.

“There is a need for a solution to this vexed issue and we would fully agree if those who have been truly victimised owing to the partition and religious persecution are given a place not just in Assam but in all other States of [India](#), a country where the underlying tenets of democracy are tolerance, secularism and freedom of religion, faith, practice and freedom of expression,” concluded the memorandum.

AT New Delhi

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