

June 7, 2009

MEDIA RELEASE **ISSUES FACING INDIAN STUDENTS**

The attacks on Indian Students are continuing unabated in spite of the universal condemnation of such cowardly acts. "Stop attacks on students" and "Enough is Enough" is the tone of the anger of the students and general community.

To highlight the issues faced by the students and to express the grief and anger over these attacks a rally was organized on 7th June 09 at Town Hall Sydney Australia by the Indian students in association with various student organizations.

United Indians Associations (www.uia.org.au) an umbrella body for 24 member Indian organization, which is the face of multicultural Sydney was represented by UIA Secretary Dr Moninder Singh who addressed the students at the rally and showed solidarity with international students as their local guardians in Australia.

Australian Government and Australian Universities in particular are benefiting from the multibillion dollar education export; the authorities haven't done enough to protect those foreign students studying here. It appears that nobody be it Law enforcement agencies or Educational Institutions are taking responsibility to impart safety awareness to the visiting students. The crimes committed on Indian students are disproportionate to their numbers. Many of these students are spending their life time savings of their parents to undertake the studies in Australia. Many of these students opted to study here considering that Australia is a safer place compared to other countries like USA.

It is not satisfactory for the Government and Police to rely on the common excuse that these attacks are not "racial", rather they are aimed at soft targets. Whether racial or not, crime is a crime, a civilized society like Australia must take every measure to protect and safeguard the so called soft targets who happens to be law abiding and socially responsible Indian students.

Indian and other International Media have started portraying Australia as a racist and non-tolerant society. We appeal to the State and Federal Governments to take all reasonable measures to combat this violence against Indian students. The Indian students who have come to study in Australian Universities are guests of this country and their safety is the responsibility of the concerned authorities.

Besides the issue of safety and security other issues facing international students like affordable accommodation near the educational institutions, subsidized public transport especially during late night, workplace rights, issue of student Visa charges, increase in tuition fee, should be addressed on priority basis.

ENDS

For further information or comment please contact:

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About UIA: The UIA is an umbrella body for 24 member Indian organisations, which is the face of multicultural Sydney. For further details visit www.uia.org.au