



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE **INDIAN STUDENTS FORUM**

UIA jointly in association with the Indian Consul General's Committee on Indian Student Issues organised an urgent forum for the Indian Students at Strathfield Town Hall on Friday 5th June 2009 in view of the increasing incidents of attacks on the students and the proposed Rally by students on Sunday 7th June at Town Hall, Sydney.

Dr. Moninder Singh, Secretary UIA and the Master of the Ceremony briefly presented the above objectives of the meeting.

Mrs Aruna Chandrala President UIA welcomed the students, community members and other invited guests. She invited students to talk openly about the issues. The Chief Guest Mr Amit Dasgupta Consular General of India outlined the initiatives and efforts being taken by to address issues of students by the Consulate and similar efforts by other Government agencies in Australia. Dr Yadu Singh Coordinator Committee for Indian Student Issues (CGI) invited students to come forward and share their views about the attacks on the students. Dr Rohitas Batta Chair UIA Students Liaison Committee stated that it is time for all to come together to find ways of addressing the issues.

"Stop attacks on students" and "Enough is Enough" was the tone of the anger of the student representatives. Student leaders one after the other raised issues facing the students in Australia. David Barrow President National Union of Students raised the issue of safety and security, workplace rights and affordable accommodation. Rashmi Kumar President Sydney Univ. PG Rep Assoc raised issue of Visa charges and tuition fee. Reshma Karmala from UNSW and Saurabh were next to air their views. Jacob Caswell Doherty President UWS SRC, Shivani from CQU Students Assoc also shared their views about problems faced by international students. Rajpal Sandhu Ex student, Kalpesh Patel, Charishma Kaliyanda fro UNSW, Gaurav Duggal also shared their experiences.

Stephen Kerkasharian Chairperson Community Relations Commission and Lindsay Rogerson from NSW Police shared the efforts of NSW Government to address the security issues faced by the students. Other members of Indian Community Dilip Chopra VP UIA, Raj Datta, Dr Prabhat Sinha, and Sreenadh Bramapuram also shared their views. The event was attended by many past Presidents of UIA Mr Raj Natarajan, Dr Orekondy, Dr Navin Khandhar. Dr. Nihal Agar President Hindu Council of Australia, Brij Pal Singh, President VHP, Harmohan Walia GOPIO and Member of the Indian Consul General Committee for Indian Student Issues (CGI) , Stanley D'Cruz, President Managlore Catholic Association and Member of the Indian Consul General Committee for Indian Student Issues (CGI).

Vish Viswanathan Member of the Indian Consul General Committee for Indian Student Issues (CGI) and President – FAIA summarized the outcomes of the Forum and stated

that further actions will follow. He proposed vote of thanks and special acknowledgements to Media including Pawan Luthra, SP Singh, Rajwant Singh and Chandna TV. The forum resolved that all should continue urge the Federal and State Governments to take immediate measures to prevent any future attacks on Indian students.

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