INDIAN WORKERS' ASSOCIATION (G.B)

(HINDUSTANI MAZDOOR SABHA ESTD. 1938)

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The Rt Hon Narendra Modi MP Prime Minister of India 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi, INDIA

16th May 2023

Dear Rt Hon Narendra Modi MP,

We are very concerned about the renowned wrestlers, including Olympic medallists and commonwealth champions, have been staging a dharna/protesting at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, India since 23 April demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh and his sacking from the post in the light of allegations of sexual harassment by woman grapplers. Instead of arresting and punishing the guilty, they had to face harassment by the police and authorities at the protest site at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

The four-month-long tussle between Indian women wrestlers and Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has reached the Supreme Court. On April 24, an SC bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud decided to examine the petition filed by seven women wrestlers against Mr. Singh's alleged sexual harassment. Since then, the Delhi Police has registered two FIRs against Mr. Singh — one dealing separately with offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act allegedly committed against a minor.

Instead of arresting and punishing the guilty, they had to face harassment by the police and authorities at the protest site at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

Women's organisations, Khap panchayats, farmer organisations, organisations of workers and students all over the country have been coming to the protest site to meet the wrestlers and express their support.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on May 12, 2023 has formed the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by the IOA for the discipline of Wrestling to carry out all the duties and responsibilities of the National Sports Federation (WFI). This will make it clear and the outgoing office bearers shall have no role in the running of the federation. We welcome this good step, but it's not enough until the culprits are arrested and prosecuted.

Indian female renowned wrestlers, including Olympic medallists and commonwealth champions fight for the respect and dignity of the country's daughters and mothers and for the dignity of India.

It is very sad that so many of our daughters are being sexually assaulted and these criminals are committing crimes out in the open and the Government of India have not protected the victims.

We the Indian Workers Association (G.B) request for you to intervene in this serious matter regarding the safety of women and give direction to the police and other agencies to investigate this serious matter and arrest the culprits.

The guilty must be punished at the earliest.

We hope you will take urgent action against those responsible.

We hope to hear from you very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Sital Singh Gill, B.A. (Hons.)

General Secretary

- C.c. 1. Mr Vikram K. Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India, India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA
 - 2. The Rt Hon Sunak MP, Prime Minister of United Kingdom
- 3. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Charles St, Whitehall, Westminster, London SW1A 2AH
 - 4. Mr Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana, India
 - 5. Mr Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister, Punjab, India
 - 6. All Members of Parliament in India
 - 7. All Members of Parliament in UK