

//Press Note//

10<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU), the premier organization of working journalists in the country, strongly condemned the illegal and unwarranted detention of senior journalist Iftikhar Geelani by the Delhi Special Cell police on Saturday for about ten hours immediately after the news of the hanging of Afzal Guru, the prime accused in the Parliament attack case broke.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, IJU Secretary-General Devulapalli Amar said the detention of Mr. Iftikhar Geelani, a working journalist for the last two and half decades and now working with DNA Daily, seemed to be a knee jerk reaction of the Delhi police just because he happened to be the son in law of Kashmir separatist leader Syd Ali Shah Geelani. It was inhuman that even his school going children were locked up in a room and deprived them of paternal care. "This is not only a frontal attack on the freedom expression and press, but violation of his human rights. It is absolutely not acceptable to the working journalists in the country," he said.

He noted that earlier the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee slapped a case against Iftikhar Geelani under the official secrets Act for allegedly possessing sensitive military documents and arrested in July 2002. Later the documents were proved to be down loaded from the internet. The government was forced to release him in January 2003 after strong protests from national and international organizations of journalists.

Devulapalli Amar demanded the Union Government to take stringent and deterrent action against police officials responsible for detention of Iftikhar Geelani and harassment to his family.

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