

# INDIAN JOURNALISTS UNION

F-29, Shankar Market, Connaught Circus, New Delhi – 110 001

## Press Note

The Indian Journalists union (IJU), the premier organization of the working journalists in the country, strongly condemned the diktat of the West Bengal Government to all the Government and Government aided Libraries in the state to subscribe to only eight dailies listed in the circular issued by it on Wednesday. The list contained eight Bengali dailies with limited circulation and supportive of the present state government headed by the Trinamool Congress Chief Ms Mamata Banerjee. No English daily or mass circulated Bengali dailies found a place in the list.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, 29 March, 2012, the President Mr. S N Sinha and Secretary General Mr. Devulapalli Amar said that it seemed that Mamata Banerjee wanted the people of West Bengal to read dailies chosen by her. “This is unacceptable and goes against the fundamental right of the people to know enshrined in the Constitution. It also impinges on their right of choice of their reading. It is also illegal to tell the libraries not to subscribe to the newspapers published by political parties while three dailies owned by the Trinamool Congress Party Rajya Sabha members”, they said.

The statement said that it seemed that the Circular was issued to keep out major dailies like Anand Bazaar Patrika, Times of India, The Telegraph, Bartamaan and some other mass circulated dailies. “This amounts to censorship of the press reminding us of the black days of Internal Emergency. The IJU demands that the Government of West Bengal should unconditionally withdraw the circular. If it is not done, the working journalists in the country would launch a movement to beat back this undemocratic and frontal attack on the freedom of the press by the West Bengal Government headed by Ms Mamata Banerjee,” the IJU leaders S N Sinha and Devulapalli Amar added.

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) requested the Press Council of India (PCI) Chairman Justice Markandeya Katju to take cognizance of the circular and suo moto take steps to protect the freedom of the press.

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S.N.SINHA  
President IJU

**For correspondence with President**

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