

'Mob-lynching a grave concern to democratic society'

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Leading social scientist Amit Singh expressed that continuously occurring cases of mob lynching must be grave concern to a democratic society, also, this kind of incessant incidence reflects a general apathy towards the victims by the larger population. Amit Singh is an ex-student of Banaras Hindu University, currently he is researcher at the University of Coimbra, Portugal researching on the history of Varanasi. In past, he has been invited to present his research papers in Norway, Netherland, Sweden, USA, Thailand and Canada. He has worked with the United Nations and National Commission of Human Rights.

Further, he stressed that, cases of lynching occurred in post-civil war history of the United States of America by the white racist and reactionaries such as Ku-Klux clan; systematic lynching were also organised in Nazi Germany where

thousands of Polish and Jews were brutally lynched in public, furthermore Amit Singh said, lynching was a dark chapter in those countries-for which- these nations are still regretful, therefore, in order to learn from its past historical tragedy and to honour the victims of mob lynching USA government has opened a lynching memorial, however, in India lynching is not organised but consistently done by the freak mob primarily targeting religions minorities and lower caste person.

Expressing his concern, social scientist said, mob, killing people in full public view and uploading their videos on internet to generate fear among certain group of people shows weakening of the democratic structure, but also, has emboldened unsocial elements, however, such unsocial elements is no longer are fringe groups but has entered into the mainstream of the society, even more worrying is support of such incidence-

directly and indirectly-by the members and supporters of the ruling party.

Amit Singh further stated, that frequency of mob lynching incidence also reflects failure of the rule of law and breakdown of the Constitutional protection. 'Government cold response to the mob lynching cases has been criticised by the Supreme Court which also shows government is not doing enough to prevent such cases,' he said, adding that only condemnation is not suffice by the government, but immediate action must be taken against those who are responsible and government must adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards mob lynching.

Requesting to people, Amit Singh said: 'We need to hold government accountable if they failed to protect our rights and are unable to enforce proper rule of law; citizen must ask questions and government must answer them. A citizen's Constitutional rights cannot be

taken for granted by anyone.' Warning people about the mob lynching, social scientist stressed that mob lynching can happen to anyone and anywhere thus if one sees it happening, must intervene and don't be just a mute spectator, causes of lynching are not just limited to the religion and caste, but it could be anything which a mob consider offensive. We need to take firm stand against hatred and fanaticism which is root cause of mob lynching.

Expressing his concern, Amit said, mob-lynching is a stigma on the civilised society and those who down play or support such incidences must note that they may be targeted one day by unruly mob, frenzied mob and extremist ideology is a serious threat to the democratic society if necessary steps are not taken on time then social and religious chaos bound to disrupt the peace of Indian society, and that time government might be helpless to control such tendencies.