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भारतीय विधिज्ञ परिषद् BAR COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Statutory Body Constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961)

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As per some media reports, the Aam Aadmi Party has issued an appeal to the legal fraternity of Delhi, urging lawyers to protest against the arrest of Shri Arvind Kejriwal.

It is to be noted that historically, lawyers' movements have often been rooted in just causes, defending freedom, upholding the constitution, and safeguarding the Judiciary or democracy. In times of peril to these fundamental pillars, lawyers, revered as intellectuals and these societal leaders, have rightfully protested.

However, in the current scenario, where the concerned court has already validated Shri Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, and the High Court has also refused to interfere in the matter, the situation appears to be grave, indicative of corruption.

In light of these developments, it is imperative to caution our esteemed colleagues in the legal fraternity against any premature involvement in this matter.

Legal professionals are duty-bound to uphold the sanctity of justice, unaffected by external influences. Until a competent court pronounces otherwise, any sort of protest by lawyers would be unjustified.

We must guard against attempts to politicize and divide the lawyers fraternity staying focused on our professional duties.

While acknowledging the potential threats to democracy, the constitution, or the judiciary in the future, it is essential to trust the mechanisms in place, including the Bar Council of India, to address such concerns judiciously. Regarding the case of Shri Arvind Kejriwal, there seems to be no apparent basis for a lawyers' agitation.

Furthermore, the questionable backgrounds of some associated individuals raise doubts about the integrity of their motives.

It is pertinent to note instances such as the revelation of fake degrees and corruption charges against members of the Aam Aadmi Party, including Shri Arvind Kejriwal himself.

Given the investigation into the educational qualifications of Mr. Jitender Singh Tomar, who was appointed as the first Law Minister by the Aam Aadmi Party, and whose degree was proven to be fake, it would be unwise for the legal community to align with such dubious figures.

Additionally, the imprisonment of other members of the Aam Aadmi Party on corruption charges, along with Shri Arvind Kejriwal's own jail term, further underscores the need for caution.

Moreover, the fact that the law degree of Mr. Sanjeev Nasiyar, the current convenor of the Legal Cell of Aam Aadmi Party, who called for the protest, is under investigation by Bar Council of India adds to the skepticism surrounding the party's integrity.

Therefore, I earnestly appeal to my esteemed colleagues in the legal fraternity of Delhi to resist the temptation of engaging in unwarranted agitation or succumbing to divisive politics.

Let us uphold the integrity and dignity of our noble profession, refraining from any movement until a competent court unequivocally establishes Shri Arvind Kejriwal's innocence or declares his arrest unjust or unlawful.

(Manan Kumar Mishra) Senior Advocate,

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Supreme Court of India

Chairman, Bar Council of India