Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Alig Community,

I write to you about the recent unfortunate incident that prompted advancing of the winter vacations and closure of the university.

As you are well aware, since the last many days the university administration allowed peaceful protests to be conducted by the students inside the campus against the Citizenship Amendment Act. The permission was strictly subject to the protests being conducted within the campus so as to ensure the safety and security of our students, and because Section 144 of Cr.P.C is in operation in the Aligarh district due to law and order concerns.

However, on the evening of 15 December, there was widespread circulation of fake news on social media of death of 2 students of Jamia Millia Islamia in police firing. Taking advantage of this sensitive situation, anti-social/lumpen elements (including expelled ex-students) intermingled with students, and forcibly broke open the Bab-e-Syed gate of the university. After crossing the university boundary, they resorted to stone pelting on the police outside the campus. This mob, running into thousands, posed imminent danger to the life of students and the property of the university. Forced with this grave situation, the university administration was left with no other choice but to call the police to control the situation. Pre-empting all attempts posing a threat to the lives of students and safeguarding the University property is the foremost duty of the university administration. On several occasions in the past, lack of timely pre-emptive action has led to death to innocent students and severe damage to the university property including burning down of official residence of Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Proctor's office and Staff Club.

Of the 27 detentions made by the police, only 7 were university students. It is proof that anti-social and outside elements intermingled with the students and were hell bent on damaging the university property and jeopardizing the life and career of the bonafide students. Hence, the decision to call the police to prevent loss of lives was a timely and necessary step.
I am extremely pained at the injuries caused to the students. The 3 students who are presently admitted in the JN Medical College, they are being provided with the best medical treatment and I have been regularly monitoring their treatment with the concerned doctors.

We have been informed of allegations of police excesses, including damage to vehicles. We will take all appropriate steps to ensure that these allegations are fully inquired by the competent authorities. I further assure you that no innocent student is harassed or wrongfully acted against.

At the same time, we will ensure that no anti-social elements will be allowed to disturb the campus peace and jeopardize the career of students.

Since the winter vacations have been advanced, I hope our students have reached their homes safely. The university made elaborate arrangement to facilitate their travel and safe passage. I stand by my peace loving students and committed to their safety, security and welfare.

I request you all not to fall prey to smear campaigns and false propaganda on social media.

We hope to open and begin normal activities, examination and teaching after the winter vacations. I request you all for your cooperation in maintaining peace as the university cannot function under chaos and disorder.

Prof. Tariq Mansoor 17/12/2009