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Support the cause of the Bhutanese refugees! Endorse the appeal to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta!

Thursday 23 September 2010, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 22 September 2010).

Dear Friend,

We would request you to endorse the following appeal to be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, India on the plight of the Bhutanese refugees living in Nepal and India.

It may be recalled that more than 25 % of the Bhutanese citizens are languishing either in UNHCR camps at Jhapa, Nepal(which fall terribly short in both material and psychological aspects of civil life) or as undocumented settlers in some areas along the Indo-Bhutan border with no clear identities.

Please do mention your institutions affiliations, if any.

Yours sincerely,

P.S. The endorsement can be returned to the following contacts:

Sushovan Dhar: ddhar.sushovan@gmail.com

Nilanjan Dutta: nilanjan123123@rediffmail.com

The Vice-Chancellor

University of Calcutta

Sir,

We have come to know from media reports that the University of Calcutta has invited the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, to deliver the convocation address scheduled to be held on 5 October 2010.

You are perhaps aware that since 1990 there are about 108,000 Bhutanese people living in seven refugee camps in Nepal and about 20,000 more are living as undocumented refugees in India, most of them in West Bengal, India.

The Bhutanese authorities have not allowed a single refugee to return. Moreover, the treatment of

the Bhutanese government towards the rest of the people of Nepali origin and other ethnic minorities, who still live in Bhutan, suggests that the basic rights of this community cannot be guaranteed. The UNHCR camps at Jhapa, Nepal, fall terribly short in both material and psychological aspects of civil life. Already, the community has grown into the second generation, and maybe the third, and there is visible dearth of space, with its natural accompanying problems. There is little scope for the refugees to be involved in any productive work. Frustration and restlessness due to the lack of livelihood is acute among the younger generation. The young women in these camps are in a particularly vulnerable situation, and there are disturbing reports of gender-based violence and trafficking.

We would therefore request you to please forward this appeal to the Bhutan king to ensure the refugees' right to return and protection of the life and livelihood of the ethnic minorities in Bhutan.

Yours sincerely