

Bar council slams attack, sets up panel to probe it

TNN | Feb 16, 2016, 12.48 AM IST

NEW DELHI: The violence at the Patiala House court allegedly by some lawyers has evoked sharp reactions. Bar Council of India took suo moto cognizance of the attack on JNU students and journalists.

BCI chairman Manan Kumar Misra told TOI, "BCI condemns the attack unequivocally. We have decided to appoint a committee to probe the incident. It will be headed by a former HC judge. The fact finding panel will identify those responsible for the violence and proper action against them will be taken."

Former chairman of Law Commission of India and ex-CJ of Delhi HC A P Shah expressed shock and wondered why the district judge or the magistrate in whose court the clash started, couldn't prevent it. "It is terrible if the judges failed to protect the media or litigants. It is his duty to ensure the police are called in immediately if decorum of court is disturbed. Here the judges failed in their duty, they should have taken steps rather than allow courtrooms to be invaded by mobs, lawyers or otherwise," Justice Shah said. He called for swift intervention by the HC saying, "I hope the high court conducts an inquiry".

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves said if the lawyers were involved in assault, strong action should be taken against them. "Their licences can be cancelled if allegations are true," he added.

The HC bar, however, backed the lawyers. "There was provocation and we have to see it as spontaneous reaction. You have to respect sentiments of the lawyers," bar president Rajiv Khosla said.