

Indian doctors continue protests demanding Justice after Colleague's tragic death

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Indian junior doctors have extended their protests, seeking swift justice for a 31-year-old postgraduate medical student who was brutally raped and murdered in Kolkata on August 9. Although a 24-hour strike called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) officially ended, many doctors continue to abstain from work, demanding stronger protection measures for healthcare workers.

Doctors across India have staged protests, candlelight vigils, and have refused non-emergency services, drawing attention to the ongoing vulnerability of women in the country despite stricter laws enacted after the infamous 2012 Delhi gang rape. Women's rights activists argue that the tragic incident at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital exposes the persistent dangers women face in India.

The father of the victim, speaking on the protests, expressed gratitude for the solidarity shown by the medical community, stating, "My daughter is gone, but I feel supported by the millions of sons and daughters standing with me."

In response, the IMA urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to implement enhanced security measures in hospitals, similar to airport protocols, to protect the country's healthcare workers, 60% of whom are women.

While most doctors resumed duties following the strike, over 6,000 doctors in Gujarat remained off the job for a third consecutive day. The Junior Doctors' Association warned of potential escalation, including halting emergency services, if adequate security reforms are not introduced. Meanwhile, protests continue in Kolkata and other cities, with authorities imposing restrictions to prevent further disturbances.