
Concerned Citizens Tribunal - Gujarat 2002

An inquiry into the carnage in Gujarat

Hate Speech

The carnage in Gujarat was marked by unprecedented levels of hate speech and hate propaganda. Some examples:

Chief Minister Narendra Modi

Terming the (Godhra) attack as 'pre-planned, violent act of terrorism', Mr Modi said that state government was viewing this attack seriously.

— *The Times of India, Feb 28, 2002.*

"With the entire population of Gujarat very angry at what happened in Godhra much worse was expected".

— *Narendra Modi, at a Press Conference in Gujarat, Feb 28, 2002.*

Modi said he was 'absolutely satisfied' with the way in which the police and State Government handled the backlash from Godhra incident and 'happy' that violence was largely contained... "We should be happy that curfew has been imposed only at 26 places while there is anger and people are burning with revenge. Thanks to security arrangements we brought things under control". When asked that not a policeman was visible in most areas where shops were looted and set on fire, he said he hadn't received any complaint.

— *The Indian Express, March 1, 2002.*

"Investigations have revealed that the firing by the Congressman played a pivotal role in inciting the mob." — CM Narendra Modi on Chamanpura incident where former MP Ahsan Jaffri was burned alive with 19 of his relatives. On being asked what could have lead to the Ex-MP opening fire it was 'probably in his nature' to do so.

— *The Hindustan Times, March 2, 2002.*

Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi on Friday termed 'barbaric' the murder of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri along with 19 of his family members, but said there was firing from inside the house.

— *The Indian Express, March 2, 2002*

Asked about the violence, Modi quoted Newton's third law – 'every action has an equal and opposite reaction' - to virtually justify what is happening.

— *The Times of India, March 3, 2002.*

Chief Minister Narendra Modi said on March 4: "The situation is totally under control. There is no threat to any life. Everything is functioning normally. That is all I can say. I will meet people and give them confidence".

— *The Indian Express, March 5, 2002.*

"It is unfortunate that along with the communal violence that is dangerous for any country, a non-violent secular violence also gets unleashed in the country at the same time by the media."

— *CM Shri Narendra Modi, at a press conference in Gandhinagar on March 5, 2002.*

Mr Modi said the Godhra incident was not a communal riot. Godhra was a 'mass murder, a terrorist act aimed at long-term damage'.

— *The Times of India, March 7, 2002, quoting from Shri Modi's address to the Chamber of*

Commerce and Industry, Gujarat.

"I am determined to take out the *yatra* and tell the world the *Gaurav Gatha* [Story of Pride] of five crore people of the state. It is not the story of Godhra, Naroda Patia or Gulmarg. Gujarat was not a state of murderers, rapists as the pseudo-secularists, fanatic and power hungry Congress leaders are attempting to project," Modi said.

— *Shri Narendra Modi Aug 28, 2002*

Last week, in Banaskantha, Narendra Modi told a public meeting how "five crore people of Gujarat have voted me the best chief minister of the country but the jealous Congress is trying to malign me."

— *The Asian Age, Aug 28, 2002*

"Relief camps are actually child-making factories. Those who keep on multiplying the population should be taught a lesson.

—*Shri Narendra Modi, addressing a rally in Mehsana district during his gaurav yatra, quoted in The Hindu, Sept 10, 2002.*

TV tapes prove Modi attacked Muslims

In the excerpts of the audiotape, a voice — reportedly that of Mr Modi — is heard making inflammatory speeches in Gujarati. The English translation is as follows: "I told them that I got water from Narmada in the month of *Shravan*. If they had it their way, they would have got it in Ramzan....What should we do? Run relief camps for them? Do we want to open baby-producing centres? We are five and we will have 25 offspring. Gujarat has not been able to control its growing population and poor people have not been able to get money."

—*The Asian Age, Sept 15, 2002*

Former Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad , Shri P.C. Pande (he was CP when the carnage took place)

Nothing illustrates police role better than police commissioner P.C. Pande's statement that, "Police were not insulated from the general social milieu... (When) there's a change in the perception of society, the police are part of it and there's bound to be some contagion effect".

— *The Telegraph, March 2, 2002*

BJP leaders

"For the first time in years, we have had an upsurge of popular sentiment that brought together Dalits, tribals and middle-class Hindus on the same platform," he said.

— *The Telegraph, March 6, 2002, from a Delhi dateline report filed by the daily's special correspondent, quoting a BJP minister in the central government, without identifying the person quoted.*

"He (Narendra Modi) has salvaged the party's credibility and honour in a way no one has done after we came to power in the Centre."

— *A Union minister from the BJP, not identified by name, quoted in The Telegraph, March 6, 2002.*

"Modi was the only one who had the guts to defend what happened in his state without batting an eyelid or being red-faced. He did not say one thing one day and another the next day."

— *'BJP sources', not identified by name, quoted in The Telegraph, March 6, 2002.*

"After the post-Godhra spontaneous Hindu upsurge, the party will have to consider the people's strong feelings on *Hindutva* and nationalism".

— *Bharat Pandya, BJP MLA, quoted in India Today, March 18, 2002. The report added that at a closed-door meeting with party president, Shri Jana Krishnamurthy in Ahmedabad, MLA after MLA of the BJP talked of reverting to the Hindutva track.*

"The charge that Muslims did not take much interest in the national movement is correct. They don't

consider India their home."

—*Vinay Katiyar, BJP's UP president, purportedly quoting Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Ambedkar, in his first address to the UP state council of the BJP as its president, quoted in The Statesman, Aug 6, 2002.*

RSS leaders

"Let Muslims look upon Ram as their hero and the communal problems will all be over".

— *RSS mouthpiece, Organiser, June 20, 1971.*

"Let Muslims understand that their real safety lies in the goodwill of the majority".

— *RSS resolution at its Bangalore meet, March 18, 2002.*

VHP Leaders

"Now, it is the end of tolerance. If the Muslims do not learn, it will be very harmful for them."

— *Harish Bhai Bhatt, VHP leader, quoted in Mid-Day from a New York Times report, March 6, 2002*

"It had to be done", VHP leader says of riots. In a startling revelation, Professor Keshavram Kashiram Shastri, 96-year-old chairman of the Gujarat unit of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, told *rediff.com* that the list of shops owned by Muslims in Ahmedabad was prepared on the morning of February 28 itself.

— <http://www.rediff.com/news/2002/mar/12train.htm>

Barely three months after the Gujarat Carnage, the VHP announced its intentions to test war on *jihad* in UP. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad plans to turn Uttar Pradesh into a laboratory for carrying out experiments aimed at promoting the feeling of *Hindutva* among Hindus and starting a campaign against "the Muslim mentality of *jihad*." The firebrand VHP leader, Singhal, was quoted as having said that "*Ab jahan jahan Godhra hoga wahan wahan Gujarat bhi hoga* (wherever there is Godhra there will be Gujarat)." He said that Muslims "who nursed the *jihadi* mentality" would be taught a lesson. "In Gujarat, for the time there has been a Hindu awakening and Muslims have been turned into refugees. This is welcome sign and Gujarat has shown the way to the country. Politics in India will now be based on the Hindu community – *Jo Hindu hit ki baat karega woh Bharat pe raaj karega* "(A Hindu who talks about his rights, will rule India)," he said.

—*The Asian Age, June 6, 2002*

Modi is He-Man, Lyngdoh has religious bias: VHP

"Both the CEC and the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, are Christians and both wanted to postpone elections. Post-Dangs, Lyngdoh had shown his bias [against Hindus] in a lecture delivered at the IAS academy in Mussoorie," VHP international general secretary Praveen Togadia said in New Delhi.

—*rediff on net, Aug 25, 2002*

"We'll repeat our Gujarat experiment"

Vishwa Hindu Parishad international working president Ashok Singhal today termed Gujarat as a 'successful experiment'—and warned that it would be repeated all over India. Singhal, in Amritsar to inaugurate a physiotherapy centre at the Shivala Bhaian temple, said, "Godhra happened on February 27 and the next day, 50 lakh Hindus were on the streets. We were successful in our experiment of raising Hindu consciousness, which will be repeated all over the country now."

—*The Indian Express, Sept 4 2002*

"Godhra happened and the next day, 50 lakh Hindus were on the streets. We were successful in our experiment of raising Hindu consciousness, which will be repeated all over the country now..."

— *Ashok Singhal, speaking in glowing terms of the fact that whole villages had been "emptied of Islam. People say I praise Gujarat. Yes, I do", inaugurating a physiotherapy center in Amritsar quoted in The Asian Age, September 4, 02*

Gujarat to decide country's politics: Togadia

VHP International general secretary Praveen Bhai Togadia warned that "*Godhra ka uttar aaj Gandhinagar, kal Dilli aur parson Pakistan mein diya jayega*" (the reply to Godhra will be given today in Gandhinagar, tomorrow in Delhi and the day after in Pakistan).

— Praveen Togadia, international general secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in *The Times of India*, Sept 15, 2002

TV (*Star News*) tapes prove Modi attacked Muslims

- By Sanjay Basak

New Delhi, Sept. 15: Brushing aside the evidence produced by a television channel on Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi's derogatory remarks on Muslims, and ignoring Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's censure of the state administration following the Gujarat carnage, deputy prime minister L.K. Advani on Sunday stood firmly behind Mr Modi and said his "*Gaurav Yatra*" was an example to be followed by the BJP.

The VHP, meanwhile, has decided to bring out another "*yatra*" in support of Mr Modi in Gujarat. The BJP president, Mr M. Venkaiah Naidu, who only a few days back was reported to have pulled up the Gujarat chief minister for his remarks against the minority community, on Sunday appeared to retract his censure, and clarified that he had merely "cautioned" Mr Modi "since there was a scope of misinterpretation." He added that the "matter ended after Modi claimed he never made anti-minority comments."

However, Mr Modi's assertion and Mr Naidu's claim that no anti-Muslim statements were made during the *Gaurav Yatra* was challenged by *Star News*, which produced tapes with Mr Modi's recorded voice, taking a snipe at and ridiculing the minority community in Gujarat. The state intelligence department had also cautioned the additional chief secretary (home) in a letter (J/2/BJP/Yatra/525/02 dated September 9) that such a speech could cause communal tension in the state.

The tape, broadcast by the television channel, gives a new twist to the controversy in the light of the Gujarat government's denial of the existence of any tapes and the text of Mr Modi's speech during the rally at Besraji village in Mehsana district on September 9. The National Commission on Minorities has asked for a copy of the tape following a furore over Mr Modi's remarks.

That Mr Modi, who lacked any caste-based support in Gujarat and was still regarded as an "outsider" by the locals, was trying to cash in on a communal divide, becomes somewhat evident following the airing of the tapes by the TV channel. In the excerpts of the audiotape, a voice — reportedly that of Mr Modi — is heard making inflammatory speeches in Gujarati. The English translation is as follows:

"I told them that I got water from Narmada in the month of *Shravan*. If they had it their way, they would have got it in Ramzan..."

"What should we do? Run relief camps for them? Do we want to open baby-producing centres? We are five and we will have 25 offspring. Gujarat has not been able to control its growing population and poor people have not been able to get money."

The tapes clearly demonstrate how Mr Modi, in search of the "Hindu vote," tried to play to the gallery. He went on with his tirade against Muslims thus: "There is a long queue for children who fix tyre punctures. In order to progress, every child in Gujarat needs education, good manners and employment. That is the economy we need."

Once again targeting Muslims, he ended with what appeared to be a warning: "For this we have to teach a lesson to those who are increasing population at an alarming rate."

While the BJP president refused to answer any question on Mr Modi, claiming that this would only

"create further tension," the chief minister's principal mentor in the party, Mr Advani, virtually gave him a pat on the back and praised his *Gaurav Yatra*, saying it was an example for the BJP to follow. "The massive turnout at the Gujarat *Gaurav Yatra* is a source of nervousness for the opposition.

"When the opposition denigrates Gujarat as 'Godse's Gujarat' the need for restoring Gujarat's *gaurav* is more," Mr Advani told BJP leaders who had assembled for the party office-bearers' meeting on Sunday.

The deputy prime minister went on: "Just as the *yatra* is a highly-successful programme, we must now work with devotion to make the *Gaon Chalo Abhiyan* and the proposed December rally a success."

—<http://www.asianage.com/main.asp?layout=2&cat1=1&cat2=22&newsid=19834>

'5 crore Gujaratis will chop off Miya Musharraf's hands' — Modi

Ahmedabad, Sept. 15: Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi stooped down to a deplorable new low in political rhetoric on Sunday while warning "Miya Musharraf" that if he does not stop pointing his "dirty finger towards Gujarat, five crore people of Gujarat will not hesitate to chop off his hand and teach him a lesson."

Besides this, the chief minister has got advertisements published in newspapers asking the public to decide between "Modi and Musharraf."

Mr Modi, who called Gen. Musharraf "*Miya*" at least eight times, made the distasteful remark of Gujarat chopping off his hand at a thinly-attended public meeting at Visaavadar in Saurashtra where he ridiculed the Pakistan President for "daring" to point his "dirty finger" at Gujarat. Visaavadar is the constituency of former chief minister Keshubhai Patel, who was conspicuous by his absence on Sunday.

Mr Modi, who has been strictly warned by New Delhi not to make offensive and abusive remarks, was reportedly annoyed at thin attendance at Visaavadar and lost his cool when groups of people shouted slogans hailing former chief minister Keshubhai Patel, thereby interrupting his speech.

Mr Modi had mellowed down and refrained himself from making personal remarks on any leaders till Saturday evening, after he was reprimanded, for describing the Muslim philosophy of life as "*hum paanch hamare pacchis*" and stressed that he will not allow relief camps to facilitate unending production of children last week. He, however, regained his old self and indulged in heavy Musharraf and Congress bashing in Saurashtra on Sunday. It must be noted that the Saurashtra region had remained completely peaceful during the recent spate of communal riots and these provocative speeches by the chief minister has shocked the local population, who see a sinister design in dividing them on the basis of community.

Attacking "*Miya Musharraf*" for daring to raise Gujarat at the United Nations, Mr Modi said, "I am aware of what *Miya Musharraf* is doing in Pakistan." The Gujarat chief minister added, "A systematic cleansing of the Ahmediya Muslim community is going on in Pakistan. Muslims who are minorities are being harassed, but Indian leaders don't talk about it because it is an internal issue of Pakistan.

"And here we have a *Miya* who is pointing his dirty finger at Gujarat," he screamed, telling the crowds that it was a matter of *gaurav* (pride) for Gujarat not to let the '*Miya*' point his dirty finger towards Gujarat. "Stop doing this *Miya Musharraf* or five crore people of Gujarat will chop off the hand which has this dirty finger that you point towards Gujarat," he roared.

Instead of focusing on political rivals in Gujarat or the rest of the country, Mr Modi has now stooped to a level where he has asked people to choose between him and Gen. Musharraf. On Sunday, under the banner of the *Rashtriya Chetna Manch*, advertisements were issued asking the public to take a decision between "Musharraf and Modi." While the BJP claims that it has not issued these advertisements, party sources confirm that they have been issued under direct instructions from the chief minister.

The advertisements have mugshots of Mr Modi and Gen. Musharraf and asks people to choose between them. "Musharraf calls it Hindu Terrorism. This is Nationalism for Modi. One insults the country. The other maintains the country's self-respect."

Right below the mugshots (Musharraf's picture also has a Pakistan flag emblem), there is an exclamatory message which asks the readers: "*Faislo tamaro* (the decision is yours)!"

At a public meeting at Visaavadar and Lalpar, Mr Modi also lashed out at Mrs Sonia Gandhi's "sketchy knowledge". "Mrs Gandhi earlier thought that Jagannath is some politician like our deputy prime minister Advaniji, who is going to take out a *yatra*."

"She did not even know Lord Jagannath and yet she wants to rule our country," he thundered, adding that the Congress was largely responsible for spreading canards about Gujarat at the national and international level. "But the people of Gujarat will decide soon on whether they want Soniaji around or whether they want someone else," he said.

—<http://www.asianage.com/main.asp?layout=2&cat1=1&cat2=22&newsid=19831>

25 to 625: look Modi's counting

Today Narendra Modi moved from Hum paanch, hamare pachees to Paanch na pachees ane pachees na 625, which roughly translates into "from five to 25 and from 25 to 625."

-By Milind Ghatwai

Navsari, September 22: Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's concern over the country's exploding population has no communal angle. That it has become such a recurrent theme in his Gujarat *Gaurav Yatra* is nothing diabolic. Today he moved from *Hum paanch, hamare pachees to Paanch na pachees ane pachees na 625*, which roughly translates into "from five to 25 and from 25 to 625."

But, Modi clarified during the Chikhli leg of the *yatra* today, his newest remark wasn't directed at Muslims, rather, at those who "who didn't believe in family planning."

"There was a hue and cry over my statements at Becharaji but they still could not find the tapes," Modi taunted reporters sitting with the crowd. "Now, journalists, especially those with tape recorders, should listen and tape carefully." There was a long, theatrical pause, which was spoilt somewhat by a cow that ran in front of his *gaurav rath*. When Modi finally spoke, he said the population had to be kept in check to ensure that every child to get proper education, and that the Congress was "not taking any responsibility" because of "votebank politics."

"In 5,000 years until independence, we were only 30 crore. But during the Congress regime, the population shot up to 100 crore," he said. "There were no means of entertainment earlier, but why should the population rise today? When so many children are produced, they grow up to become cycle repairers or pick-pockets."

The only time Modi ever named any community directly was at Khergan, which he visited earlier in the day. There, he said Bohras had fewer education facilities and that their youth aspired at best to become bus conductors. "Why can't they think of becoming doctors or engineers?" he asked. And answered the question himself: "Because the Congress does not want them to come forward. When Ehsan Jafri called up Congressmen for help, none of them came forward."

At Chikhli, Modi repeated a point made earlier at Becharaji as well: "The BJP is not ruling in China but the country has introduced family planning. My utterances about family planning have been given a communal colour. If something is wrong, it is wrong. I don't know why the Congress is interested in increasing population. Probably to increase slums."

At his next stop at Bilimora, he targeted "*Godhrana papiyo*" and the Congress. "The train carnage accused are supplied chicken biryani and other delicacies in jail by people close to the Congress," he said.

At Gandevi, "Miya Musharraf" came under attack yet again.

"He called us Hindu extremists. If Hindus were extremists, Pakistan would have been wiped out off the map," he said to thunderous applause. "India has one and a half times more Muslims than Pakistan. Unlike the minorities in Pakistan, they feel safe in India." And "*Itali na chasma*" became "*Itali ni goli*" as he wondered why the Congress did not criticise Musharraf for mentioning Gujarat to the United Nations General Assembly.

When reporters later questioned Modi on why he linked Abu Salem's arrest with Friday's violence in Vadodara, he said he had received intelligence reports that trouble began almost immediately after news of the gangster's detention in Lisbon trickled in.

—http://www.indian-express.com/full_story.php?content_id=9999

Gujarat govt links violence to Abu Salem's arrest; Modi's charge shocks Muslims

By Nandini Oza
DH News Service

Vadodara, Sept 22: Jehangir Pathan, the father of 16-year-old Altaf Pathan who died in police firing on Friday, is too shocked to speak. But more than what happened to him during the Lord Ganesha procession, his neighbours and fellow Muslims are traumatized by caretaker chief minister Narendra Modi's statement and police commissioner D D Tuteja's assumption that don Abu Salem's arrest sparked off the violence.

As Altaf's family mourns his death on the third day, Muslims of the Machhipeeth area where he was shot angrily ask as to what connection they have with Salem.

Perturbed over what happened, the residents have shot off letters to the President and the police commissioner demanding action against a police constable, who they allege ordered the firing. Altaf had gone to buy grocery for his store. When contacted, Mr Tuteja said he has handed over the inquiry to a senior officer. Regarding the Salem connection, in a turnaround from Saturday's statement he said it was just a hunch.

On Saturday, soon after Mr Modi linked the Vadodara riots with Salem, Mr Tuteja too followed suit. On Sunday he said the violence may have something to do with a meeting on April 27 when 18 leaders came and reportedly gave instigating speeches.

The violence is believed to have been sparked off from near the same mosque. Had the police not exercised restraint, the situation would have worsened, he said, explaining that 12 policemen were injured. Demanding that even Dawood Ibrahim should be shot dead in public, 70-year-old Haji Sabir Patel, a local leader, wonders how Fatehpura can have a strong link with Salem.

If violence had to occur it would have occurred in Mumbai, the residents say. Violence started from Fatehpura. Expressing concern that the Quran was also damaged in one of the mosques in the city, another resident Arif Malek maintains that if Muslims had to indulge in violence they would have done so during the Jagannath *Yatra* earlier this year.

Malek, an eyewitness to the Machhipeeth incident alleges that Hindu youths, who were taking out the Ganesha procession, were shouting vulgar anti-Muslim slogans. Shops owned by Muslims were looted and within minutes stone throwing began followed by police shooting at Altaf and one Mustaf, who is undergoing treatment at SSG Hospital. Incidentally, the Muslims had observed a curfew on Friday.

Another Muslim student of Macchipeeth considers Mr Tuteja's statements as baseless and says the news of Salem trickled in around 5 pm and violence began in Fatehpura town immediately. The People's Union for Civil Liberties and *Shanti Abhiyan* have strongly condemned statements by Mr Modi and Mr Tuteja saying that it reflects their prejudiced understanding. Jagdish Shah of the organisation alleged that such a statement clearly indicates Mr Modi's "fascist" leanings.

Meanwhile, the situation is peaceful in Borsad where police had to lob teargas shells to control the two communities who indulged in stone throwing late on Saturday night. This is one of the latest which has plagued Gujarat. Recently chief minister Narendra Modi alleged to have made damaging remarks against minorities.

—<http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/sept23/n15.htm>

What Modi Said At Becharaji (Transcript of Narendra Modi's speech)

19 September : "Should we run relief camps? Open child producing centres?"

On September 9, the Gujarat *Gaurav Yatra* rolled into Becharaji, where chief minister Narendra Modi delivered his by now infamous *Hum paanch, hamare pachees* speech. This is the speech that the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) now wants a text of for its apparently inflammatory content. And this is the speech that the Gujarat Government claimed that it had been unable to trace a copy of—Modi's principal secretary P K Mishra had earlier told *The Indian Express*: "Since the government has neither any tapes nor a transcript of the CM's speech, it is not in a position to send the same to the NCM." Excerpts from a translation of an audio recording of the speech, courtesy *NDTV*:

"Power hungry people are out to defame Gujarat. At such a time, the five crore people of Gujarat will gain strength from the blessings of Becharaji to build tomorrow's glorious Gujarat.

"We are dubbed *Hinduwadi* because we have allocated Rs. eight crore towards the development of Becharaji. Is it our fault? Are we communal?"

"The Congress also accuses me of bringing the Narmada waters to the Sabarmati river in the month of *Shravan*. But the dam has already been built... I want to ask the Congress, why do you object if people on the banks of the Sabarmati derive spiritual peace through the Narmada waters brought in the month of *Shravan*? When you come to power, you are free to bring water during Ramzan.

"When we allocate funds for Becharaji, they do not like it. And if we bring Narmada waters in the month of *Shravan*, then too they say they dislike it. So what should we do? Do we go and run relief camps? Should we open child producing centres?"

"We want to firmly implement family planning. *Hum paanch, humare pachees* (We five, our 25) (laughs). Who will benefit from this development? Is family planning not necessary in Gujarat? Where does religion come in its way? Where does community come in its way?"

"The population is rising in Gujarat, money isn't reaching the poor? What's the reason? They make a beeline, fix cycle punctures (*Audience laughs*).

"If Gujarat is to be developed, then an economic system has to be developed where every child born in Gujarat gets education, manners and employment. And for this, those who are multiplying population at a rapid rate will need to learn a lesson. If we object to population growth, then too they dislike it. Will someone please tell me is there any (such) country in the world? Is there BJP rule in China? Yet, China has enacted laws to control population growth. *Arrey*, what does religion have to do with this?"

"We talk of *madrastas*. *Madrastas* have flourished in Gujarat. A child has a right to primary education. But a child going to a *madrasta* is deprived of primary education. What will such a child do once he grows up?"

"Those who have got no education, and got only religious education, would they not become a burden on Gujarat?"

"We started thinking about *madrastas* in Gujarat. When we express concern over *madrastas*, they call us communal. Why? The Communist government in West Bengal applies laws in *madrastas*, curbs their activities, and it is still secular? And if we try to regulate *madrastas* in Gujarat, we are dubbed as communal? After all, any institution has to be regulated.

"If Gujarat needs peace, a long-term plan has to be drawn. The merchants of death will not be allowed to run their activities in Gujarat as they like.

"And as I sit here at this seat of strength, standing at the feet of mother Becharaji, I want to assure you that the high seat (of power) may go today or tomorrow, but I will not allow the merchants of death who want to destroy Gujarat and harass the innocents to settle here.

"Gujarat needs prosperity, it needs peace. Gujarat is forging ahead on the unity and strength of its five crore people. The days are gone when Dawood Ibrahim sitting in Karachi could instruct the merchants of death here and Gujarat could be set on fire. We will not allow this.

"What for? For power? Power may go today or tomorrow. We have not applied Fevicol on the chair. We are sitting at the feet of the people of Gujarat. If people feel we are performing, they will welcome us, otherwise they will throw us out.

"If the Congress is afraid of going to the people, then they should come out openly and say that since they are sure of their defeat, the election should be delayed. Indira Gandhi had done it too. You do it, who's stopping you?

"But no, they abuse Gujarat and Gujaratis instead. If you abuse Gujarat, that is not acceptable to us. Come out openly and give us a fight if you are strong enough. Why do you escape instead?

"It is I who has been defamed. Yet, I am ready to go to the people. You go straight to Italy, plead with the Election Commission to stop polls. But we are not like you, we are proud of approaching the people. We take pride in applying the dust from people's feet onto our foreheads.

"Italy's daughter has insulted Gujarat and its five crore people. The land of Sardar Patel is insulted. This has got to be explained. Sanjay (Gandhi) was only Maneka's husband. Yet, it is his *samadhi* that lies in Delhi, not that of Sardar Patel. The Congress is out to erase Sardar Patel's name, but beware."

—http://www.indian-express.com/full_story.php?content_id=9714

Seers' meet calls for protection of temples

Times News Network

Rajkot, Oct 18: A *Sants' Sammelan* organised here on Thursday by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has called for serious action to protect temples all over the country. *Sants*, in some no-holds-barred speeches, called upon Hindus to unite and give a befitting reply to the attack on the temples in the country.

The *sammelan* also received political acceptance with the participation of senior BJP leaders, including Union minister of state for heavy industry Vallabh Kathiria, former minister Vajubhai Vala, senior leader Chiman Shukla, Vijay Rupani and a host of other BJP leaders.

The *sants'* meet also unanimously passed a seven-point resolution which included handing over of the Ram *Janmabhoomi* complex to the Hindus, curbing terrorist activities in Gujarat, saving Jammu and Kashmir from disintegration and creating awareness against *Jehadi* elements.

VHP international general secretary Pravin Togadia said "time was ripe for forming a separate army of Hindu youths who would protect the religion from attacks by the *Jehadis*."

VHP president Ashok Singhal, who also attended the *sammelan*, said: "Religion alone can unite Hindus, as no amount of political planning can bring Hindus under one umbrella."

— <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/articleshow?artid=25511906>

Thackeray for suicide squads of Hindus

Mumbai, Oct 15: Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray favours the formation of suicide squads among Hindus to take on the menace of terrorism.

"If such suicide squads are formed only then can we take on perpetrators of mindless violence", Thackeray said in party mouthpiece *Saamna* here on Tuesday.

The Sena chief, in his Dussehra message, exhorted people to be bold as he lashed out at state and Central governments for failing to effectively counter the scourge of terrorism.

Meanwhile, following intelligence reports that Jaish-e-Mohammed militants have sneaked into the metropolis, unprecedented security has been deployed at Shivaji Park in central Mumbai, where Thackeray is scheduled to address the annual Dussehra rally in the evening, according to highly placed police sources.

Rapid Action Force and State Reserve Police personnel would be deployed around the venue while armed policemen would be posted atop many of the buildings around the sprawling ground.

Similarly, the route from the Sena chief's residence in suburban Bandra to Shivaji Park will be heavily guarded, sources added.

—<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/articleshow?artid=25248436>

VHP decides to form suicide squads; Thackeray's call touches home base

By A Staff Reporter

Taking a direct cue from Shiv Sena chief, Mr. Bal Thackeray's Dussehra exhortation, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has decided to form Hindu 'suicide squads' in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.

The Navi Mumbai unit of the VHP yesterday had a special meeting to discuss the matter and has decided to form such groups of 20-25 youth who will be responsible for working against the evil designs of terrorists.

Expressing solidarity with Mr. Thackeray's views, the VHP and Bajrang Dal have sworn their active support to the formation of such squads. Mr. Thackeray clarified that he had not expressed his ire against the minorities but was firm about taking on anti-national Muslims. The Hindu outfits declared their readiness to go ahead with any instructions coming from him.

Yesterday's meeting at Navi Mumbai was attended by VHP Navi Mumbai unit chief, Mr. Pravinbhai Jain, and other office bearers like Uddhavrao Kharade, Yashwantrao Jadhav, Ramesh Patil and Bajrang Dal leader Kiran Vyavahare.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sainiks disrupted a religious meet organised by Shankaracharya Swami Narendranand Saraswati at Wagle Estate, Thane, after he spoke derogatorily about Mr. Thackeray to journalists at a government guest house. The Shankaracharya had said that Mr. Thackeray did not have any genuine love for Hinduism and only indulged in publicity stunts. This hurt the sentiments of the Sainiks and they stormed the religious meet and forced its closure.

—<http://www.cybernoon.com/news/news1.htm>

The text of Dr. Togadia's speech

(This is the speech that VHP international general secretary Praveen Togadia made on Saturday at Lodia village—the epicentre of the earthquake in Gujarat's Bhuj district—in the presence of State Industry Minister Suresh Mehta and Animal Husbandry Minister Devanand Solanki. Excerpts from the speech, which was first reported by The Indian Express, as recorded on tape).

"When I came here, some friends told me that some organisations have requested that I should not say anything that will offend their feelings. Now they dictate to us what we should say. But my question is, don't you offend us?"

"At Bhimasar police station, a complaint has been lodged. An 18-year-old boy was taken to Radhanpur six months ago and made a Muslim. If you do this, doesn't this offend us? We don't offend anybody's feelings. But here our feelings have been hurt. Have you agitated against this?"

"When you attack our Akshardham, does not this offend our feelings? When you burnt people alive at Godhra station, does this not offend our feelings? When you destroy our Somnath temple, does not this offend our feelings?

"When the so-called Babri Masjid which was, in fact, a Hindu temple was destroyed, Muslims became unhappy. They (Muslims) clamoured that Hindus had destroyed the *masjid* which was a Hindu temple. Here, were your feelings not hurt? They were. When Babar destroyed our Ram temple 450 years ago, were we not hurt then? When you burnt people at Godhra station, we have to respect your feelings. When you create bloodshed at Akshardham we have to respect your feelings, but should you not respect our feelings in such incidents?

"This type of mindset has produced the offspring of Gazni in this country. We have always lived peacefully for ages. Do you find any clash between the Parsees and Hindus? Is there any conflict between Hindus and Jews? Is there any fight between Hindus and Buddhists? Do you find any clash between Hindus and Sikhs? Why then there is conflict with some Muslims?

"When a survey conducted by the *India Today* magazine asked Muslims whether Mohammad Gazni, Aurangzeb and Jinnah, who was unfortunately from Gujarat, were among their heroes, one-third of the 12 crore Muslims gave an affirmative answer. How we can have a rapport with you when you have this mentality? They certainly cannot be our heroes. If you still think that your feelings are hurt, then you should go to Pakistan. If you have to live in this country you have to respect the feelings of Hindus. We have never hurt your feelings, you have. You are still doing it.

"A well known Mumbai-based authority on Islam, Rafiq Zakaria, has written that only *jihadis* opposed Muslims. Of late, there is seen some protest against this mentality in some Muslims. Zakaria clearly says that Hindus are not at fault here as it is work of only *jihadi* Muslims.

"I will give you an example of a village near Viramgam where there was communal harmony between Muslims and Hindus who greet each other with '*Ram Ram*' and '*Salaam Valekum*' for ages. But then came a *maulvi* from Uttar Pradesh. One day, on a Friday, a Muslim did not greet Hindus. When the Hindu villagers asked the Muslim villagers for the reason behind this sudden change in behaviour, they were told that the *maulvi* had told them not to wish *kafirs* on Friday.

"When the Godhra incident took place, the so-called secularists of this country did not condemn it the same day. Those who disrupted Parliament for a whole month on the Ram *mandir* issue didn't raise this issue in Parliament. Then, the communal violence began from February 28. First, the puppies of Gujarat made noises and started barking. When it was felt that this noise would not do, dogs from all over the country started coming here. Some came from Lucknow, some came from Kerala. Then we heard that a dog from Italy also made the rounds here.

"There has been browbeating in Gujarat to delay the elections so that Hindu votes get divided, so that people of Lohana community vote for their community candidates, so that the Darbars, Patels and Brahmins do the same. So that the supporters of *Miya* Musharraf could rule here. Should we permit companions of *Miya* Musharraf to rule here?

"Therefore, never vote on the basis of caste. Vote on the basis of religion. If you do not vote on the basis of religion, there cannot be unity among the people of Gujarat.

"You think that Hindus could be suppressed with bomb explosions or violence? We are five crore Hindus in Gujarat. If 50,000 Hindus get killed in a terrorist attack, the five crore figure will not get smaller. If you people who number 50,000 die, no one would be left here from you.

"Our Soniabehn is imported from abroad. But Muslims of India are not imported. Indian Muslims are converted Muslims. Therefore, Soniabehn is a foreigner to us but Muslims are not.

"Since the forefathers of Muslims are Hindus, how can the blood of Arabia flow in their blood? I advise all Muslims to get themselves tested for their Hindu origin. I request Indian Muslims to get their genetics tested. The blood flowing in their blood vessels will be found to be not of Prophet Mohammed but of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. If it is proved that you have the blood of Rama and

Krishna, then how can there be any dispute with you? It is you who are in conflict with us. If in the name of Prophet Mohammed, you pray in a mosque, we have no objection. But if you talk of *jihad*, it is not acceptable to us.

"Gujarat is not the right place for *jihad*. You cannot harm Hindu religion and culture by *jihad* because Hindus have the tradition of wearing a garland of flowers. But our Hindu deity wears a garland of human heads, we feel we wrongly adopted the tradition of wearing a garland of flowers."

Published by: Citizens for Justice and Peace