

BOMB BLAST

The frequent occurrence of cases of bomb blasts and other acts of terror are a matter of grave concern for all. So far, the civic investigation of communal violence had played a great role in bringing truth of the incidents. The fact-finding committees played a positive role in galvanizing the process of justice in these tragedies.

But in case of blasts the matters are put under great secrecy, under the clause of security and the police version is the final in these matters. One also knows that many such investigations leave a lot of holes and by now the theme that some muslim terrorist groups have done it becomes the main finding. It of course makes the job of police an easy one. Arrest some muslim youth, who generally carry a helpful diary to give all the clues to the police and investigation is complete.

One recalls that in the bomb blast which occurred in Naded (2006) two Bajrang Dal workers had died while making bombs but one never heard anything on this later. Many a civic rights group did the investigation, which showed the links of these blasts with Bajrang Dal, but their voices remained unheard.

It seems that in such cases only the initiative of National Minorities Commission can bring forth the truth.

The dubbing of these acts as coming from some groups with Muslim identity is adding to the divide being created along the religious lines.

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'ENCOUNTERED ON SAFFRON AGENDA'

The manner in which private screening of Shubhradeep Chakravorty's recent documentary on encounter killings in Gujarat titled 'Encountered on Saffron Agenda' was disrupted and the participants to the programme were humiliated and brutalised by the combined might of the Police and the Bajrang Dal goons poses an ominous sign to democracy.

Yuva Samvad, an informal organisation of Youth had organised the screening of the documentary on 7th February at AICUF Ashram, Bhopal. Shubhradeep, a New Delhi based documentary filmmaker and the director of the film, who has received critical acclaim with his earlier documentary on Gujarat genocide 2002 named 'Godhra Tak', was also present on the occasion to participate in the ensuing discussion. The screening of the documentary was supposed to start at 7 pm but before it could happen a horde of *Bajrang Dal* activists numbering around 70 came to the venue and disrupted the show. The police instead of nabbing the miscreants forced the organisers of this screening to cancel the programme itself.

It may be told that the latest documentary which was shot in seven states, is based on investigative documentation of few encounter killings in Gujarat in recent times. A significant commonality between all these encounters was that

those killed in these encounters were said to have on a mission to kill the Chief Minister Narendra Modi who had allegedly organised the 2002 genocide of Muslims in the state after Godhra train burning incident.

It was widely reported that in its recent National Executive meeting Mr Rajnath Singh, President of BJP exhorted BJP ruled states to follow the 'Gujarat Model'. Can one then say that the organised attack is a precursor to bigger attacks to make MP a new citadel of Hindutva. Or it should be seen as the last ditch attempts by saffron brigade which is losing popular support and where its ministers themselves have no qualms in complaining about the growing corruption of the administration, to suppress any voice of dissent and difference.

Whatever might be the case, the MP state government led by Mr Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan has utterly failed in its constitutional duties to protect the right to freedom of expression. It is high time that state takes corrective action.

The policemen involved in this act be immediately punished.

The miscreants belonging to the *Bajrang Dal* be immediately nabbed and cases are filed against them.

The government should henceforth take extra care that there such incidents do not recur.

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