

Terror and Injustice

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In the December 24 attack on Mumbai not only people from Mumbai but innocent people from all over the country and other countries were killed. Be it in war or peace or as a punishment for crime, to kill a human being cannot be a sanction of a civilized society. For this reason civilized people have to build a world where societies can resolve their conflicts through dialogue and not through violence. But it is unfortunate that after the Mumbai tragedy citizens are not going in that direction. If one looks carefully there is every reason to believe that some people are moving to a politics which is dangerous for the common man as well as for India's democratic traditions.

Only a few decades ago 'terror' was considered a political option. In the movement for independence there was a group that opted for the use of terror tactics. They attacked the British colonizers. The trial of Bhagat Singh and the Chittagong trial are an example. The Irish Republican Army IRA too used these tactics to get the British out of their country. The present rulers of Israel too bombed the King David Hotel in Jerusalem killing innocents. With the material and moral support of the USA, the Al Qaeda and Taliban were formed to drive out the Soviets from Afghanistan. Hands of those children going to regular schools were chopped off. Journalists from the USA were aware of such incidents but they suppressed any coverage. As during those times such actors were considered 'freedom fighters'.

When it supported the geo-politics of the USA then such terror acts were condoned and supported. It is a fact that today's terrorists were considered as freedom fighters yesterday. If it would have suited the interest of the USA then the attackers of Mumbai would be declared as freedom fighters.

Up to the time of bombing of Malegaon and other Muslim populations it was said that only Islamists were terrorists. When the Sangh Pariwar was caught red handed the language of the public political debates and the language of the media suddenly changed. They are now going out of limits to propagate that terror has no religion. It was always a well known fact that in no religion was there a place for terror. Unfortunately due to such distortions it must be realized that terror has now become a religion. Without accepting this fact and without acknowledging it will be a big mistake one cannot afford. For this reason by enacting new laws curtailing the democratic spaces and by dressing up civilian police with more arms the authorities cannot solve the problem. For this reason there must have space for facts and public debate. But if one wants to change the mindsets of the status quo then it will call for a new political path. But are people ready for this? This is a central question to any solutions.

It is not going to be a simple question to construct a new political path. For it begets the other question and that is the numerous social injustices in the present system. When one starts looking for the source of the many social injustices then it is going to be a nightmare for those who have been benefiting from the social injustices. A new political path will be against their interest. For this reason and deliberately the question of the cause of terror today is not a part of the public debate.

The Taj Hotel is one of the costliest hotels. The cost of one night's stay can be between Rs 5000 to Rs 100,000. One plate of food starts from somewhere near Rs 1000. At the time of the attack in the Hotel were different dinner parties. Present at these parties were the top officials of big big Companies. They earn somewhere from Rs 200,000 to Rs 20,00,000 per year. They sit on the heads of companies that do not pay their contract workers the minimum wages. A new political path will not tolerate such injustices. Therefore will the powerful minority who rule the country accept this new political path.

On 22th November at Chandil, 40 km from Jamshedpur Sunil Kr Munda was murdered by the goondas of industrialists. On 6th December as activists of the

Jharkhand Ulgulan Manch were courting arrest in Dumka, Lakhiram Tudu was killed when the police fired on the crowd. In the same incident Shivilal Soren is right now struggling for his life in a Ranchi hospital. He has a bullet in his brain and leg and as he is still bleeding from the eyes the bullet cannot be removed. Again on 11th December another activist of *Adhi Haq Sangrash Samiti*, Sushil Lakra was shot and killed by the security agents of a Dalmia Cement plant. (All four of these activists live off their lands and have no other source of income. They all were about 24 yrs old and leave behind their wives and tiny children.

In the Mumbai attack for the first time the blood of the super rich were spilt. For this reason they have called for a 'war on terror'. But who will tell them that the common people are already victims of an ongoing war? Not much is required to give any proof that there is an ongoing caste war against the Dalits and Adivasis. Since the very birth of Industrialization there has been a war on the toilers. If the super rich classes are going to wage a new war then will this mean that they will abandon the war on the poor to fight the war against terror? Or will it be that the new war will be merged with this old one? Everybody needs to give this a deep thought.

On 16th December the Chairman of Tata Sons Ratan Tata in a press conference announced that they are going to build up their own commando force to protect their Company assets. To construct this force they will do it with the support of 'out side' help. What is this outside help? There is a Company called Blackwell which operates in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have committed killings on innocent Iraqi civilians. But just as the USA army cannot be charged for criminal offences by the Iraqi law this Company too gets this privilege. Like Blackwell there are over 2000 Companies who have taken the contract for supplying commandos to the USA forces. They use the same weapon technology that the USA army uses. Helicopters, rocket launchers, machine guns etc. If the TATA Company is asking for such support then people must know that against whom this outfit is going to be used. In every corner of the country TATA Company is facing resistance to their expansion projects. All have to understand these political games keenly. Or else..... □□□