

# India Association of Minnesota: Association Records

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## COMMUNITY FOCUS

## Interfaith Prayer Ceremony

by Haridas Gori

of the tragic September 11 attacks, an Interfaith Prayer Ceremony and Presentation of Relief Fund was organized by the India Association of Minnesota in the rotunda of the state Capitol.

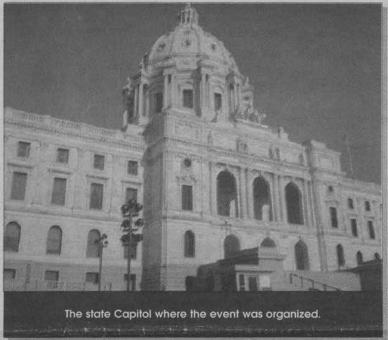
Vipin Gopal, President, and Preeti Mathur, Chair, Organizing Committee of India Association of Minnesota welcomed the guests. The function began with short prayers from all major Indian religious groups. Charulu Jaganadha of Hindu Society of Minnesota and Geeta Ashram led the prayers from

T. PAUL - In the aftermath Hindu scriptures. This was followed by Ahsan Ansari of the Islamic Center of Minnesota reciting from the Our'an; Rajinder Singh of the Sikh Society of Minnesota, from Adi Granth Sahib; Rev. K.K. John representing the Indian-Christian Community Minnesota, from the Bible; Ram Gada of Jain Center of Minnesota, from Jain scriptures; and Banu Irani representing the Indian Zorastrian community in Minnesota, from Abur-Mazada.

India Association of Minnesota, (IAM), established in 1973, has been



A check for \$30,000 collected by various participating Indian-American organizations was presented to Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State, Minnesota and Satveer Chaudhary, State Senator.



the umbrella organization representing about 20,000 people of Indian origin in the state of Minnesota. For the past 25 years IAM and its affiliated organizations have been responsible for building a strong and active Indian community in Minnesota. This event was part of the effort to bring Indians of all faiths and geographic

regions together to express their solidarity as one group, one strong force and to establish itself as an integral part of the American mosaic.

Present on the occasion were Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State, Minnesota; Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator, Randy Kelly, Mayor-elect, St. Paul; and prominent

religious leaders. A check for \$30,000, collected by various participating Indian-American organizations, was presented to Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State, Minnesota and Satveer Chaudhary, State Senator.

The function ended with a Universal Prayer that was led by Dr. Kumud Sane and Ram Gada.



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#### Universal Prayer

We remember those who have died, as innocent victims. We remember those who died heroically in an attempt to help their brothers and sisters.

We remember the families and communities, who grieve enormous loss.

We remember those who struggle to heal from tragic brokenness.

We remember the ways our own hearts are so often hardened. May the silence heal us.

We remember our leaders, may they be filled with wisdom and act in truth, fairness and compassion.

In this silence,

As we stand shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, hand in hand, we offer a new blessing on this land of the free.

May a new day spring among us, full of compassion and courage.

May our courage carry us to new visions of unity
May our unity build a bold future of justice, tolerance,
mutual respect, peace and prosperity for all.

Adapted by Dr. and Mrs. Sane from the original prayer composed by the Council of Churches

#### Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the help extended by Senator Satveer Chaudhary and his staff and the Plant Management Department at the State Capitol.

Special thanks to the Taste of India, Maplewood for providing the Indian snacks for this event.

Heartfelt thanks to the public and community leaders, the members of the participating Indian organizations, and the volunteers for their help, cooperation and camaraderie in making this event possible



## Inter-Faith Prayer Service and Presentation of September 11 Relief Funds

by the

Indian-Americans of Minnesota



State Capitol Rotunda St. Paul, Minnesota

#### Schedule of Events

1: Welcome

Vipin Gopal, President, India Association of Minnesota

2: Interfaith Prayers

Hindu

Charulu Jaganadha

Hindu Society of Minnesota and

representatives of

Geeta Ashram of Minnesota.

Muslim

Ahsan Ansari

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Sikh

Rajinder Singh

Sikh Society of Minnesota

Christian

Rev. K.K John

Representing the Indian-Christian

community in Minnesota

Jain

Ram Gada

Jain Center of Minnesota

Zorastrian

Banu Irani

Representing the Indian-Zorastrian

community in Minnesota



3. Presentation of September 11 Funds

Funds received by

Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnesota Secretary of State, and Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator.

**Participating Organizations** 

Asian Women's Association (AIWA)

Bochasanghwasi Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

Bengali Association of Minnesota Geeta Ashram of Minnesota

Hindu Society of Minnesota

Indian Music Society of Minnesota (IMSOM)

India Association of Minnesota (IAM)

Islamic Center of Minnesota Jain Center of Minnesota Katha Dance Theater Malayali Association Marathi Mandal

Sikh Society of Minnesota

School of India for Languages and Culture (SILC)

4. Addresses by Public Leaders

Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnesota Secretary of State Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator

Randy Kelly, Mayor-Elect, St. Paul

Paul Wellstone, United States Senator (Message)

5. Universal Prayer

Lead by Dr. Kumud Sane and Mr. Ram Gada



## Inter-Faith Prayer Service and Presentation of September 11 Relief Funds

By the

**Indian-Americans of Minnesota** 

Saturday, November 17, 2001

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

#### **State Capitol Rotunda**

St. Paul, MN, 55155-1606 (http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/capitol.htm)

Please join us as we come together to offer prayers in all the major religions of India and present the funds raised by the many Indian-American organizations in Minnesota.

Various community and political leaders are expected to attend.

Light refreshments will be served after the program.

For further information contact: Vipin Gopal: 651-604-0476, Preeti Mathur 651-483-0793 or Dilip Mallick: 763-546-9393



This event is being organized by the India Association of Minnesota whose mission is to bring all Indian-American organizations together to build a strong and active Indian community in Minnesota. IAM gratefully acknowledges the assistance of State Senator Satveer Chaudhary and his staff.



### **India Association of Minnesota**

invites you to participate in a

# INTER-FAITH PRAYER MEETING

## for Tsunami Victims in South Asia

on Saturday, January 29, 2005 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am

at

St. Paul Student Center – Terrace(1<sup>st</sup> Floor) 2017 Buford Ave St. Paul, MN

#### For More Details Contact:

Madan Pathak (612) 730-3194 / Dhakshina Murthy (952) 250-4276

#### **Directions from 194:**

From the east: Follow I-94 towards Minneapolis to Highway 280 (north exit only). Drive along Highway 280 to the East Hennepin/Larpenteur Avenue exit. Turn right on Larpenteur and then right on Cleveland Avenue. Turn left on Buford Avenue. The St. Paul Student Center will be on your left.

From the west: Follow I-94 towards St. Paul to Highway 280 (north exit only). Drive along Highway 280 to the East Hennepin/Larpenteur Avenue exit. Turn right on Larpenteur and right on Cleveland Avenue. Turn left on Buford Avenue. The St. Paul Student Center will be on your left.

Good Morning Everyone: This is Dilip Mallick

I appreciate all of you to be here on this Saturday morning. Your presence proves that you support and care for the tsunami victims. Your prayer, your efforts, your help and your donation are the resources to make life better for the survivors of this disaster.

It is an appeal to all of you to donate generously to Tsunami relief fund of your choice. There are many relief Funds available in Twin city, one of them is our, IAM Tsunami Relief Fund. A pledge card is inserted in the program listing. Please fill it as you wish and turn in to Nitin Patil and Madan Pathak. They are eagerly waiting for your card at end of this room.

We, all need to support the children, elderly, men and women who lost their love ones, who lost their home, savings and earnings, who are barely serving. Nothing has left, nowhere to go. They could put together their life; get back to their feet only from our support and being on their side.

The Indian Association of Minnesota is committed to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities to the survivors of Tsunami. IAM organized two separate sessions with Asian and Indian community fore front leaders to produce sets of unique plan to lunch Rehabilitation Program in a specified Tsunami affected areas.

The Indian Association of Minnesota, a 501(c) 3 organization that has earned the trust of Minnesota's Indian community over the last 33 years. We are raising funds to help our brothers and sisters in the affected areas just as we did several disasters relief in USA and India in past.

Only with your support we can continue our tradition of responding to disasters like this. We appeal to Minnesota's generous community to contribute once again. Funds collected should be used for the reconstruction and rehabilitation project(s) only with the partnership of local non-profit NGO(s) that have outstanding track record and experience in rehabilitation project. The Sub-Committee, "Tsunami Rehabilitation Committee of IAM", will ensure the objectives of the Project(s) and recommends the distribution of fund.

We do care; we believe you do care for them.

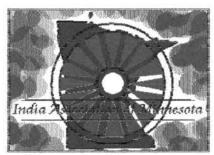
Again thanks to all of you for participating today's Inter-faith prayer meeting. Thanks to organizing committee, "Tsunami Rehabilitation Committee of IAM". Thanks to Mrs. Nirmala Rajasekar, Mr. Shrini Vasan and Mr. Arpit Panda for Devotional songs.

Thanks to Speakers representing the Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh faith with the prayer.

Thanks to India American Student Association of Minnesota for their help. Please have some refreshment.

This conclude today's program.

Press Release December 29, 2004



www.iamn.org

India Association Of Minnesota expresses its deepest sympathy to the families who have lost their love ones and victims caused by the earthquake in the magnitude of 8.9 rector scale resulting tsunamis in the Indian Ocean on Dec 26.

Today death toll reached 10,85, with many thousands of people still missing, according to official figures as follows,

In Tamil Nadu, 6,073 confirmed dead,

In Kerala, the death toll rose to 106

In Andhra Pradesh nearly 104

Union Territory of Pondicherry reported a loss of Some 506 died.

The police chief on the Andaman and Nicobar islands announced on Monday that at least 3,000 people had died and as many were missing.

Relief and rehabilitation efforts are already in full swing in the affected areas. The armed forces and paramilitary forces and charitable Organizations are assisting in providing relief to all those affected areas.

The IAM will do as much as possible to provide relief to the victims. I am sure each one of us will voluntarily extend help and support to the best of our ability and sprit.

It is an appeal to all of you to join and stand with IAM in dealing with this tragedy.

Thanks, Dilip K Mallick President-Elect of IAM 763 546 9393

#### Universal Prayer

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May a new day spring among us, full of compassion and courage.

May our courage carry us to new visions of unity May our unity build a bold future of justice, tolerance, mutual respect, peace and prosperity for all.

Adapted by Dr. and Mrs. Sane from the original prayer composed by the Council of Churches

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Saturday, November 17, 2001 State Capitol Rotunda St. Paul, Minnesota

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Hindu Society of Minnesota and

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Muslim Ahsan Ansari

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Sikh Rajinder Singh

Sikh Society of Minnesota

Christian Rev. K.K John

Representing the Indian-Christian

community in Minnesota

Jain Ram Gada

Jain Center of Minnesota

Zorastrian Banu Irani

Representing the Indian-Zorastrian

community in Minnesota



3. Presentation of September 11 Funds

Funds received by

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**Participating Organizations** 

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Bochasanghwasi Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

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Geeta Ashram of Minnesota Hindu Society of Minnesota

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Islamic Center of Minnesota

Katha Dance Theater

Malayali Association Marathi Mandal

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Randy Kelly, Mayor-Elect, St. Paul

Paul Wellstone, United States Senator (Message)

5. Universal Prayer

Lead by Dr. Kumud Sane and Mr. Ram Gada

## **Board of Directors**

Jewish Community Action counts on the strength of an active membership, the experience of eight professional staff, and the vision of a 13-person board of directors.

Marcia Avner, unaffiliated

Rabbi Aaron Brusso,

Adath Jeshurun Congregation

Steven Foldes, Chair,

Beth Jacob Congregation

Arthur Himmelman, Secretary, unaffiliated

Naomi Kastenbaum,

Shir Tikvah Congregation

Allan Malkis, Or Emet Congregation

Mark Margolis, Mt. Zion Temple

Leonard Oppenheimer,

Beth Jacob Congregation

Marcy Shapiro, Immediate Past Chair, unaffiliated

Rebecca Skelton, Treasurer, Shir Tikvah Congregation

Amy Susman-Stillman,

Adath Jeshurun Congregation

Judi Tennebaum, Adath Jeshurun & Shir Tikvah Congregations

Judy Yellin, Adath Jeshurun Congregation

Vic Rosenthal, Executive Director, Temple of Aaron

## **Initiatives**

#### Affordable Housing

We help increase the availability of affordable housing in the Twin Cities area.

#### Community Reinvestment

We build economic vitality in our urban communities and educate financial leaders about affordable housing and job creation.

#### **Gun Violence Prevention**

We work for responsible laws on firearm use and ownership.

#### **Immigration**

We organize with Russian-speaking, Latino, and Somali immigrants for civil rights and a better life.

#### Racial Justice and Multifaith Alliances

We act against racism—in the Jewish community and beyond, and we bridge gaps between communities.

To learn more and become involved, call JCA at 651-632-2184 and visit us on the web at www.jewishcommunityaction.org.

TEL NO: 215-1261

6512973472

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T-432 P.001/009 F-293

# From-STATE OF MN-PLANT MANAGEMENT

APITOL COMPLEX FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC EVENTS

This document is considered public information.

The undersigned requests permission to use.

Facility Name (fully describe area needed)

Rotunda d Great Hall

#### Department of Administration

Plant Management Division

117 University Avenue - Room 301

St Paul, MN 55155

Reservation and Forms: 651.296.6404

Questions: 651.296.0797

Fax: 651.297.5158 TTY: 651 297 4407

Date of Event:

Novamber 17 2001

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In Prayer & September 11 Fund	hesentation
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Daytime Telephone Number ( )	ation approved.  Yes D No
Fax Number. ( )	
City, State, Zip Code	
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T WRITE BELOW THIS LINE FOR STATE USE ONLY	
	To: 11:30 Fam. p.m.  The Prayer & September 11 Fund  Minnes ota Indian - Amer  Time Needed: Time:  9:30 a.m.  11  Dayume Telephone Number ()  Fam Number. ()  City, State, Zip Code:  esponsible for compliance with rules and regulations of the Department of Adminde of this form) Applications for permit will be forwarded to the State Patrol, Call Complete Address (include city, state and zip code)  300 Harbor Lare Shorered  1102 West Cty Rad D Apt 215  2087 Rulinnew Lane (1975)



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#### Indian-Americans of Minnesota

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6512973472

From-STATE OF MN-PLANT MANAGEMENT

T-432 P.004/009 F-293

#### Jul-31-2001 09:15am Rules of Conduct

· Page 2

Plant Management

- 12. You are responsible for the condition of the space you use, including picking up all litter, garbage, both inside and outside the Capitol Building. Upon request, and depending on availability, additional litter receptacles can be made available.
- 13. Designate a person and/or persons responsible for supervising the events during set up, take down, clean up, and the duration of the event. The person should notify the Capitol Historic Site Manager and the Capitol Information Desk on the first floor of the Capitol when set up begins.
- 14. Loud or noisy events which disrupt State Capitol business are prohibited. A maximum noise level of 85 db will be enforced. The readings will be taken outside of the exterior building entrances and chamber doors.
- Do not serve food or beverages, or decorate with flowers or materials which stain the floors of the Capitol Building.
- 16. Dinners and receptions after 4:00 p.m. are asked to be held in the Veterans Service Building, fifth floor. No dinners in the Capitol Building at any time. There may be a fee assessed for security and maintenance required after the normal working day.
- 17. Set up displays and exhibits in the center of the North Corridor so not to block office and hearing room entrances. Sufficient room should be allowed in the North Corridor to permit normal pedestrian traffic.
- 18. Bathrooms There are times when porta-porties are needed. This will be at the applicant's expense. There are several factors which determine the need:

Number of People - be as accurate as possible when anticipating attendees Length of Event Will Food Be Served?

#### STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR USERS OF PUBLIC SPACE -Minnesota State Capitol-

The sponsoring organization will be responsible for abiding by the Rules of Conduct, for cleaning up all spillage, waste, litter, etc., and also be responsible for reimbursement of labor and materials costs incurred by the State of Minnesota for repairs, resurfacing, or cleaning which directly relates to damage to the Capitol Building as a result of this event.

Date

- Jesti Mathin	_ Nov 13/01
Applicant's Signature	Date

## EQUIPMENT RENTAL REQUEST

Date of Event: November 17, 2001
Equipment Available:
SEE ENCLOSED SHEET
Location of Event: Rotunda
Equipment Requested (include number requested):
2 microphones - 1 podium & 1 microphone 50 chairs.
2 large tables in the Great Hall set up by 10am.
Time Equipment should be Set up: 9:30 am
Time Equipment should be Taken Down: 12:30 am
Where should billing invoice be sent:
Name Preeti Matthur
300 Harbor Lane.
Address Shoreview MN 55726-1940
I would like to rent the above equipment for our event. 657 - 483 - 0793
Signature Nov 13/01 Date

6512973472

#2589 PAGE: 6/10 T-432 P.005/009 F-293

## EQUIPMENT RENTAL COST SHEET Effective July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002

Equipment	Number Available	Rental Costs *
Chairs	230	\$ 0.25 eac
Tables	25 - eight foot 24 - six foot	\$ 2.25 eac
Half Mile Hailer	1	\$ 15.00
Podium w/small PA	(2)	\$ 15.00 each
Expanded PA System	1	\$100.00
Backdrop for Expanded PA	1	\$ 35.00
Riser	2	\$ 10.00 each
Coat Racks	6	\$ 2.00 each
Easels	24	\$ 2.00 each
Indoor Power Cord	1	\$ 10.00
Outdoor Power Cord	1	\$ 25.00
VCR/TV - First Day	2	\$ 15.00 each
VCR/TV - Additional Days		\$ 5.00 each
*Labor/set-up charge	regular hours	\$39.60 per hour

<sup>\*</sup>All prices are for equipment rental only. A \$39.60 per hour set up charge will be assessed on all orders. Due to complexity or special needs, some events may require more than one person to do the set up. There will be an additional charge for this service.

All prices are for one day events, during normal working hours. All others must be negotiated with Plant Management.

Contact should be made with <u>Bob Davis at 651.296.1812</u> prior to the event to verify equipment needs, arrangements and instructions on use.

#### Jul-31-2001 09:14am From-STATE OF MN-PLANT MANAGEMENT

#### **CHAPTER 1235** DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION PLANT MANAGEMENT DIVISION RULES GOVERNING PUBLIC RALLIES

#### 125.0100 SCOPE.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statues, section 16.02, subdivisions 6 and 6a, the following rule governs the issuance of permits for public rallies in or on the capitol complex buildings and grounds.

Statutory Authority: MS § 16.02 subds 6, 6a; 16.05

#### 1235.0200 DEFINITION.

"Public rallies" for the purpose of this rule means parades, gatherings, solicitations, concerts, speeches, or rotunda ceremonies, and other such related uses of the buildings, grounds, and state-owned streets in the capitol complex.

#### 1235.0300 PURPOSE.

This part defines the permissible time, place, duration, and manner of the use of the capitol complex grounds, including the rotunda, sidewalks, capitol building steps, and state-owned streets for public rallies, so as not to unreasonably interfere with the rights of others to the use of such public areas, to assure access to driveways and building entrances, to assure traffic movement in such a manner so as to not deprive the public and state employees of police and fire protection, and to assure the public of safe use

Statutory Authority: MS § 16.02 subds 6, 6a: 16.05

#### 1235.0400 APPLYING FOR RALLY PERMIT

Subpart 1. Form. Any person, firm, parmership, association, corporation, company, or organization shall secure a permit from: Director of Plant Management Division, Department of Administration, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, Room 123, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155, to conduct a rally on the capitol complex grounds prior to announcing or conducting such public rally.

Subp 2. Written Application. Any such person seeking a permit for a public rally shall submit, not less than seven working days prior to the proposed date of the event, a written application identifying the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization; mailing address and telephone number; date; time; and name, address and telephone number of the contact person who shall be responsible for the public rally; and all other relevant information requested by the director of the Plant Management Division. The director, where compelling reasons are shown therefore, and if staff and time are available to make arrangements necessary to protect the public interest, shall have the authority to consider any application hereunder which is filed less than seven working days before the date such rally is proposed to be conducted.

Subp 3. Workers' compensation and other insurance. Proof of workers' compensation and public liability insurance shall be submitted when required by director.

Statutory Authority: MS § 16.02 subds 6, 6a; 16.05

### 1235.0500 GROUNDS FOR DENYING RALLY PERMIT.

Upon consideration of the request for the permit, and after written agreement is reached between the parties involved

security, police protection, liability for damages, and cleanup of the areas, the director of Plant Management shall approve the permit application unless any of the following is found to exist:

A. the conduct of the rally will substantially interrupt the safe and orderly movement of other traffic contiguous to its route or

B. the conduct of the rally would require the diversions of so great a number of the security force of the Capitol to properly police the line of movement and the areas contiguous thereto as to prevent normal security.

C. the concentration of persons, animals, and vehicles at assembly areas of the rally will unduly interfere with proper fire and police protection of, or ambulance service to, areas contiguous to such assembly areas;

D. the conduct of such rally will interfere with the movement of fire-fighting equipment en route to a fire;

E. the rally is not scheduled to move from its point of origin and to its point of termination expeditiously and without unreasonable delays en route;

F. the rally is to be held for the sole purpose of advertising any product or goods or is designed to be held all or in part for private profit; or

G. the rally will unreasonably disrupt the normal operations of state government and the public right to safe use or unreasonable enjoyment of public spaces.

Statutory Authority: MS § 16.02 subds 6, 6a, 16.05

#### 1235.0600 GENERAL RULES FOR RALLIES

A permittee hereunder shall comply with all permit directions and conditions and with all applicable laws and ordinances. The rally chairperson or other person heading or leading such activity shall be in possession of the permit during the conduct of the

Whenever any rally is conducted in a manner substantially different from that indicated in the permit application and rules therefor, the permit shall be deemed to be automatically revoked and shall be forfeited.

No public rally in the capitol complex shall be undertaken unless a permit has been obtained as required in this chapter. Any person violating this chapter, or applicable state or local law, may be subject to prosecution under applicable law. Statutory Authority: MS § 16.02 subds 6, 6a; 16.05

#### Universal Prayer

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We remember the families and communities, who grieve enormous loss.

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#### **India Association of Minnesota**

www.iamn.org

November 5, 2001

Dear Community Leaders and Members of the Indian Community in Minnesota:

In the aftermath of the tragic September 11 attacks, many of you successfully organized events to raise funds for the relief efforts. Let us now carry this success one step further. Let us put all these efforts together as one community with one voice and come together and provide that support as Indian-Americans of Minnesota.

We invite you and the members of your organization to present the funds you have collected, to the organization of your choice, in a ceremony being organized by the India Association of Minnesota (IAM) at the State Capitol on November 17, 2001 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (See enclosed brochure for further details).

IAM's mission is to bring all Indian organizations together to build a strong and active Indian community in Minnesota. For the past 25 years we have been organizing events to bring Indians of all faiths and geographic regions together and feel the need to express this solidarity as one group even more critical after the September 11 attacks. Our goal is merely to combine everyone's efforts into one strong force and establish ourselves as an integral part of the American mosaic.

The program will be held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. We will begin with short prayers from all major Indian religious groups—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and Zorastrians—followed by presentations of funds on behalf of the organizations. We will end the program with Gandhiji's message of peace and non-violence. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony. We are expecting many political leaders, including our own Satveer Chaudhary, as well as representatives from the press.

We sincerely hope you will join us at this gathering of peace and giving and help us make this event a success. For further details, please contact either of us. Please let us know by Monday, November 12, if your organization would be participating in the event.

Thanking you,

Vipin Gopal President

(651) 604-0476

vipin gopal@hotmail.com

Chair, Organizing Committee (651) 483-0793

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p mathur@att.net



#### India Association of Minnesota

www.iamn.org P.O. Box 130158 St. Paul, MN 55113

November 5, 2001

India Association of Minnesota (IAM) invites you to an Interfaith Prayer Ceremony and Presentation of September 11-Relief Funds by the various Indian-American organizations in Minnesota at the State Capitol on November 17, 2001 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (See enclosed brochure for further details).

IAM, established in 1973, is the umbrella organization representing about 20,000 people of Indian origin in the State of Minnesota. For the past quarter century, IAM and its affiliated organizations have been responsible for building a strong and active Indian community in Minnesota. The foster organizations of IAM include AIWA, the Asian Indian Women's Association, and 55+, a forum for senior citizens. The India Association also has strong partnerships with SILC (School of India for Language and Culture) and PIC (Parents of Indian Children). IAM holds regular events in the Twin Cities area that brings Indians of all faiths and regions together, and represents the Indian community to the community atlarge.

The program on November 17<sup>th</sup> will be held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. We will begin with short prayers from all major Indian religious groups—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, and Zorastrians—followed by presentations of funds on behalf of various organizations. Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence will conclude the program. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

We sincerely hope you will join us at this gathering of peace and giving and help us make this event a success. For further details, please contact either of us.

Looking forward to your esteemed presence, Thanking you,

Vipin Gopal President

(651) 604-0476

vipin\_gopal@hotmail.com

Preeti Mathur

Chair, Organizing Committee

(651) 483-0793

p mathur@att.net

Announcement: July 6, 2001



## INDIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

#### IERF will hold news conference about plans to rebuild quakehit Indian village with funds raised in Twin Cities

When: July 16, Monday. Time: 4:30 p.m.

What: The India Earthquake Relief Fund (IERF) committee will hold a news

conference to inform news media representatives and community members of its plans to use more than \$275,000, the amount collected in the Twin Cities, to help rebuild a quake-hit village in India. The village of Vijaypar was destroyed when a powerful earthquake struck

the Indian state of Gujarat in January.

**Why:** To explain to individuals and corporations in the Twin Cities how

their donations and grants will help rehabilitate quake victims in an

entire village in Gujarat, India.

Everyone is invited to attend this event and witness the ground breaking ceremony that was performed in Vijaypar on June 20<sup>th</sup>

Where: The International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

For more information, contact:

Bhavesh Damania, IERF committee chair: (763) 557-5160

Bhupat Desai, IERF committee member: (651) 777-7991

TEL NO: 215-1261 6512973472

PAGE: 9/10 T-432 P.008/009 F-293

#### INFORMATION ONLY

#### NOTICE TO LOBBYIST AND LOBBYIST PRINCIPAL ORGANIZATIONS

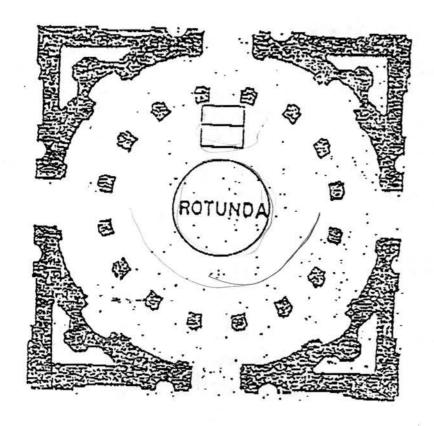
Effective August 1, 1994

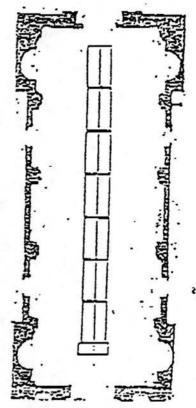
Before submitting a "Request for Use of Capitol Complex Facilities for Public Events" application, it should be determined whether or not the proposed use is prohibited by MN Statute Chapter 10A or Chapter 471. If you are unsure, call 296-0797 for further directions.

- Under Minnesota Statute 10A.071, if you are a lobbyist or if your organization is a lobbyist principal, you may not give a gift to a public official (as defined by Minnesota Statutes, 10A.01, subd. 18) employee of the legislature, or local official of a metropolitan governmental unit.
- Under Minnesota Statute 471.895, if you are, or if you represent an organization that qualifies as an "interested person," you may not give a gift to any local official.

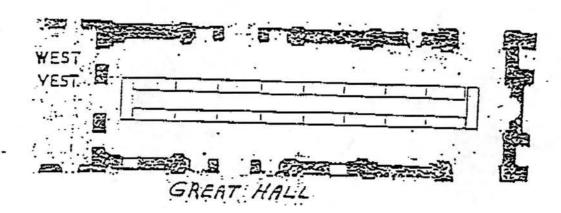
There are very few items which do not quality as a "gift" under this law. In particular, food and beverages qualify as "gifts" even if they are of minimal value. Although it is not prohibited if the recipient pays equal or greater value for the gift, under Minnesota Rule 7525.0400, selling and accepting any payments while using public space is prohibited.

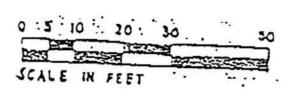
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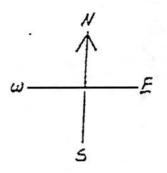




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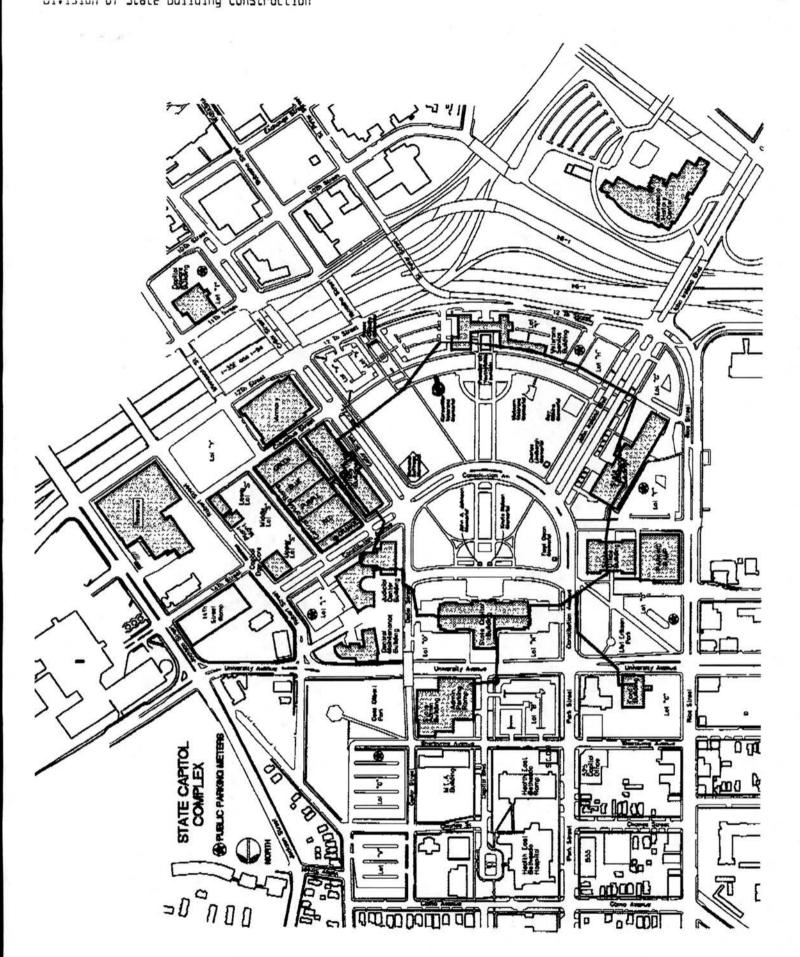




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Jul-31-2001 09:16am From-STATE OF MN-PLANT MANAGEMENT

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Jul-31-2001 09:14am

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T-432 P.003/009 F-293

## From-STATE OF MN-PLANT MANAGEMENT 6512973472 Obligate for Users of Public Space

Minnesota State Capitol

The following rules are necessary to preserve the State Capitol Building and to use this facility with proper regard for its status and beauty.

Events can be scheduled in the Capitol Rotunda for a two hour period during any normal business day. This does not include set up and removal which can be an additional two hours.

Displays and exhibits are typically limited to the North Corridor or Great Hall. However, during legislative session, only unattended displays and exhibits will be allowed in the North Corridor. The time limit for displays and exhibits is two weeks.

Requests for use of the Capitol Rotunda or the Capitol North Corridor must be made to the Office of Plant Management in the Department of Administration, telephone number, 296-6404.

Some requests for use of the Capitol Building will be considered by the Office of Plant Management in consultation with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and the Historical Society's Capitol Historic Site Manager no less than seven days prior to the event. Authorization will then come from this committee.

- Users of public space are advised that the Capitol is a historic building with original ceilings, walls, portraits, busts and murals. The State's NO SMOKING policy is therefore strictly enforced.
- Do not attach any posters, stickers, signs, banners, or materials to interior or exterior spaces of the Capitol Building.
- Do not lean tables, chairs, or any items against exterior or interior walls, pillars, busts, portraits, or staircases of the Capitol Building.
- Do not drag, roll, or move tables, displays, chairs, or any other items on the marble floors of the Capitol Building.
- 5. Do not move lamps, busts, or furniture in the Capitol Building for any purpose.
- The star in the Rorunda is not to have items put on it or straddle it in any way. No people are allowed
  to be present on the star.
- No balloons of any kind inside the building.
- 8. No candles
- No sound systems for musical events. No musical events will be allowed during the anticipated last six weeks of legislative session.
- 10. You are responsible for setting up and taking down displays and exhibits in a timely fashion, without disrupting the business of the Executive Offices, Senate, House, Supreme Court, and public access to the Capitol Building including the Rounda.
- Arrange with Plant Management for electric needs before scheduled events which may occur in and outside the Capitol Building. All cords must be taped down with 3M #471 tape only.

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Jyothi & Babu Satya rarayan 763-424-5776 babujyolia earttslink. net

Vidya Subramani 952-974-9639

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## **Achievements**

Because of JCA, hundreds of housing units in the Twin Cities area remain affordable to low income people.

With four synagogues and three banks, JCA has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars into the urban core to create sustainable neighborhood development.

We led the first-ever defeat of the NRA in the Minnesota Legislature. We helped preserve St. Paul's Human Rights Department.

JCA built alliances with Latino groups to protect immigrants' civil rights.

JCA's first social justice seder brought together hundreds of many backgrounds to celebrate stories of immigration and freedom. This resulted in new dialogue between Jewish and Muslim women.

JCA's community reinvestment breakfast explored ways to revitalize our cities and furthered dialogue between Jews and African-Americans.

 JCA's Tzedakah Institutes have trained hundreds of synagogue members to become social justice leaders.

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Preeti Mthur

Company:

Fax Number:

94839902

Phone Number:

From:

Laurie LaBore

Fax Number:

297-5158

Phone Number

Time Sent:

Tuesday, Oct 30, 2001 09:45AM

Pages:

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Description:

Please complete forms and fax to Bernie Steele at 651-297-5158 for approval of your events. Thank you.

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## Inter-Faith Prayer Service and Presentation of September 11 Relief Funds

By the

## Indian-Americans of Minnesota

Saturday, November 17, 2001

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## State Capitol Rotunda

St. Paul, MN, 55155-1606 (http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/capitol.htm)

Please join us as we come together to offer prayers in all the major religions of India and present the funds raised by the many Indian-American organizations in Minnesota.

Various community and political leaders are expected to attend.

Light refreshments will be served after the program.

For further information contact: Vipin Gopal: 651-604-0476, Preeti Mathur 651-483-0793 or Dilip Mallick: 763-546-9393



This event is being organized by the India Association of Minnesota whose mission is to bring all Indian-American organizations together to build a strong and active Indian community in Minnesota. IAM gratefully acknowledges the assistance of State Senator Satveer Chaudhary and his staff.



## India Association of Minnesota

www.iamn.org P.O. Box 130158 St. Paul, MN 55113

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Looking forward to your esteemed presence, Thanking you,

Vipin Gopal President

(651) 604-0476

vipin\_gopal@hotmail.com

Preeti Mathur

Chair, Organizing Committee

(651) 483-0793

p\_mathur@att.net

## Universal Prayer

We remember those who have died, as innocent victims.

We remember those who died heroically in an attempt to help their brothers and sisters.

We remember the families and communities, who grieve enormous loss.

We remember those who struggle to heal from tragic brokenness.

We remember the ways our own hearts are so often hardened. May the silence heal us.

We remember our leaders, may they be filled with wisdom and act in truth, fairness and compassion.

In this silence,

As we stand shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, hand in hand, we offer a new blessing on this land of the free.

May a new day spring among us, full of compassion and courage.

May our courage carry us to new visions of unity May our unity build a bold future of justice, tolerance, mutual respect, peace and prosperity for all.

Adapted by Dr. and Mrs. Sane from the original prayer composed by the Council of Churches

## Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the help extended by Senator Satveer Chaudhary and his staff and the Plant Management Department at the State Capitol.

Special thanks to the Taste of India, Maplewood for providing the Indian snacks for this event.

Heartfelt thanks to the public and community leaders, the members of the participating Indian organizations, and the volunteers for their help, cooperation and camaraderie in making this event possible



## Inter-Faith Prayer Service and Presentation of September 11 Relief Funds

by the

Indian-Americans of Minnesota



Saturday, November 17, 2001 State Capitol Rotunda St. Paul, Minnesota

## Schedule of Events

1: Welcome

Vipin Gopal, President, India Association of Minnesota

2: Interfaith Prayers

Hindu Charulu Jaganadha

Hindu Society of Minnesota and

representatives of

Geeta Ashram of Minnesota.

Muslim Ahsan Ansari

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Sikh Rajinder Singh

Sikh Society of Minnesota

Christian Rev. K.K John

Representing the Indian-Christian

community in Minnesota

Jain Ram Gada

Jain Center of Minnesota

Zorastrian Banu Irani

Representing the Indian-Zorastrian

community in Minnesota



3. Presentation of September 11 Funds

Funds received by

Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnesota Secretary of State, and Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator.

**Participating Organizations** 

Asian Women's Association (AIWA)

Bochasanghwasi Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

Bengali Association of Minnesota Geeta Ashram of Minnesota Hindu Society of Minnesota

Indian Music Society of Minnesota (IMSOM)

India Association of Minnesota (IAM)

India Association of Minnesota Islamic Center of Minnesota Jain Center of Minnesota Katha Dance Theater Malayali Association Marathi Mandal

Sikh Society of Minnesota

School of India for Languages and Culture (SILC)

4. Addresses by Public Leaders

Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnesota Secretary of State Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator Randy Kelly, Mayor-Elect, St. Paul

Paul Wellstone, United States Senator (Message)

5. Universal Prayer

Lead by Dr. Kumud Sane and Mr. Ram Gada



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Charulu Jaganadha

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representatives of

Geeta Ashram of Minnesota.

Muslim

Ahsan Ansari

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Sikh

Rajinder Singh

Sikh Society of Minnesota

Christian

Rev. K.K John

Representing the Indian-Christian

community in Minnesota

Jain

Ram Gada

Jain Center of Minnesota

Zorastrian

Banu Irani

Representing the Indian-Zorastrian

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Bochasanghwasi Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS)

Bengali Association of Minnesota

Geeta Ashram of Minnesota

Hindu Society of Minnesota

Indian Music Society of Minnesota (IMSOM)

India Association of Minnesota (IAM)

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Jain Center of Minnesota

Katha Dance Theater

Malayali Association

Marathi Mandal

Sikh Society of Minnesota

School of India for Languages and Culture (SILC)

## 4. Addresses by Public Leaders

Mary Kiffmeyer, Minnesota Secretary of State Satveer Chaudhary, Minnesota State Senator

Randy Kelly, Mayor-Elect, St. Paul

Paul Wellstone, United States Senator (Message)

## 5. Universal Prayer

Lead by Dr. Kumud Sane and Mr. Ram Gada

## WORDS FROM AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM INDIA

N.V. 16, 2001

Dear Hrup.

Here are the prayers for tomorrow.

Please call of there is any question.

My telephore # (952) 474-1516

Pager # (612) 538.5578.

Thank you.

Best Repards to your & Pont.

Linceres

Shashaller

3 Pages includy lerer letter

(Dr. Save)

## WORDS FROM AMERICAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM INDIA

AUM Saha Naavavatu

Saha Nau Bhunaktu

Saha Veeryam Karavavahai

Tejaswinavadheetmastu Maa Vidvishavahaiee

AUM Shantih Shantih Shantih

May He protect us all. May He nourish us all.

May we acquire the capacity to study and gain knowledge.

May our studies be brilliant. May we not cavil at each other.

Asato Maa Sat Gamaya.

Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamaya.

Mrutyormaa Amrutam Gamaya.

Aum Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih.

Take me from Untruth to Truth Take me from Confusion to Clarity

Take me from Ignorance to Knowledge.

Take me from darkness to Enlightenment

Take me from Death to Immortality

Peace, Peace unto us all.

November 17, 2001.

"As a society, we do not have to choose between keeping people safe and treating them right, between enforcing the law and upholding civil rights.

We can do both."

- Former President William Jefferson Clinton

## We Are All America

A Multifaith Social Justice Service for Healing, Reconciliation, and Commemoration

September 11, 2002

## We Are All America:

A Multifaith Social Justice Service for Healing, Reconciliation, and Commemoration

## September 11, 2002

Gathering

Lao Drummers

Welcome

Vineeta Sawkar

Opening Prayer

Nahid Khan

Speaker

Mayor R.T. Rybak City of Minneapolis

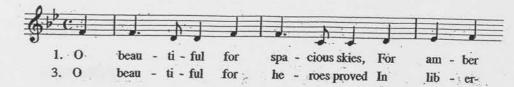
Speaker

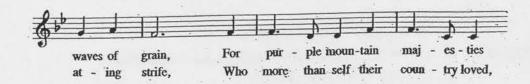
Mayor Randy Kelly City of St. Paul

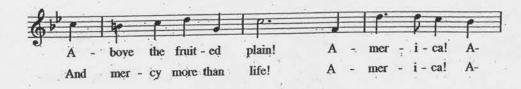
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America the Beautiful

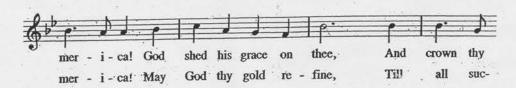
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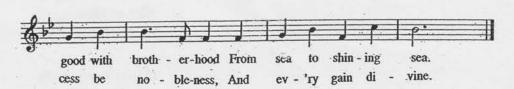
led by Cantor Scott Buckner and Rabbi Sim Glaser











Prayer

Rabbi Morris Allen
Rajinder Singh

Speaker

Ali Khalif

Speaker Pablo Tapia

Prayer Ahsan Ansari

Drumming Circle Native Wind

Prayers

Offered by Buddhist monks:
Cambodian, Laotian, Tibetan, Vietnamese

Speaker Dr. Yang Dao

Speaker Professor Mahmoud El-Kati

Prayer Reverend Al Gallmon
Father John Estrem

Song

Led by Cantor Scott Buckner
and Rabbi Sim Glaser

Minute of Silence

## Sponsoring Organizations

American Muslim Council - Minnesota Chapter

Chicano Latino Affairs Council

Chicano Latino Unides en Servico (CLUES)

Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

Council on Black Minnesotans

Educational Resources, Inc.

FaithWays, Inc.

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

**ISAIAH** 

Islamic Center of Minnesota

Jewish Community Action

Minnesota Coalition for Black Civic Participation

Sikh Society of Minnesota

Somali Community of Minnesota

Somali Justice Advocacy Center

Southeast Asian Leadership Council

Southeast Asian Committee

The Urban Coalition

Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota

United Food and Commercial Workers ~ Local 789

Youth Vote Coalition

## COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

America the Beautiful

Text: Katherine L. Bates (1859-1929)

Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward (1848-1903)

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Master of Ceremonies:

Vineeta Sawkar, KSTP-Channel 5

Guitar and Vocals:

Cantor Scott Buckner, Adath Jeshurun Congregation;

Rabbi Sim Glaser, Temple Israel

Drumming Circle

Native Wind; John Oak Grove, Leader

Speakers

Nahid Khan, American Muslim Council - Minnesota Chapter

Mayor R.T. Rybak, City of Minneapolis Mayor Randy Kelly, City of St. Paul

Rabbi Morris Allen, Congregation Beth Jacob Rajinder Singh, Sikh Society of Minnesota Ali Khalif, Former Prime Minister of Somalia

Pablo Tapia, Vice-President, ISAIAH Ahsan Ansari, Islamic Center of Minnesota

Monks from Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota

Monks from Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Rev. Al Gallmon, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

Fr. John Estrem, Cathedral of Saint Paul

Dr. Yang Dao, former member, National Political Council of

the Kingdom of Laos

Prof. Mahmoud El-Kati, Macalester College, History Dept

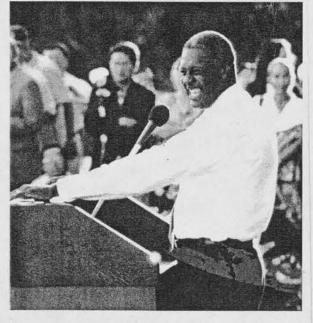
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# "We Are All America"

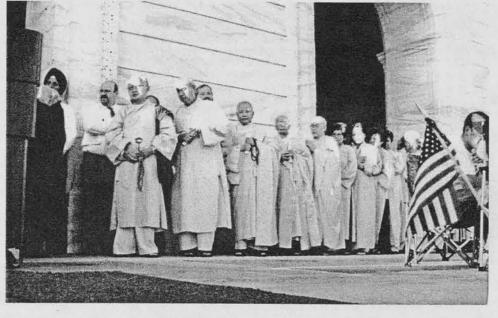
The steps of the Minnesota State Capitol were the setting for a multifaith, multicultural memorial observance, remembering the events of September 11, 2001. Jewish Community Action played a lead role organizing the event, which grew out of last year's service at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Nearly four hundred people came to sing, listen, and remember. While we must never forget the tragic losses sustained one year ago, we must reaffirm what we must not lose: our civil liberties and civil rights; our respect for difference and tolerance of diversity within our communities and nation; and our pride in an America created by people of many different religions, places of origin, and ethnicities.











#### **Master of Ceremonies**

Vineeta Sawkar, KSTP-TV Channel 5

Rabbi Morris Allen, Beth Jacob Congregation Cantor Scott Buckner, Adath Jeshurun Congregation

Dr. Yang Dao, former member of the National Political Council of the Kingdom of Laos Professor Mahmoud El-Kati, Macalester

Father John Estrem, Cathedral of Saint Paul The Reverend Al Gallmon, Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Rabbi Sim Glaser, Temple Israel Nahid Khan, American Muslim Council His Excellency Ali Khalif, former Prime Minister of Somalia

The Honorable Randy Kelly, Mayor of Saint Paul

Laos Drummers Native Wind

The Honorable R. T. Ryback, Mayor of Minneapolis

Rajinder Singh, Sikh Society of Minnesota Ahsan Snsari, Islamic Center of Minnesota Pablo Tapia, ISAIAH

Buddhist monks from Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota Buddhist monks from the Cambodian.

Laotian, and Vietnamese communities Co-Sponsors

American-Muslim Council, Minnesota Chapter

Chicano Latino Affairs Council Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicio (CLUES) Confederation of Somali Community in

Minnesota

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Somali Justice Advocacy Center

Southeast Asian Leadership Council Southeast Asian Committee

Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota United Food and Commercial Workers - Local 789

Urban Coalition

Youth Vote Coalition

# "We Are All America"

"The timing of the end of it and the sun going down behind the trees was kind of a nice bonus."

Chris Topic, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

"As we reflected on the tragedy of 9/11, I found it important to share both our concern for the preservation of civil rights as well as to mourn America's losses. JCA's leadership in organizing this memorial event made it possible for us to voice these concerns and feelings with a diverse group of Americans and immigrants, and this made me proud to be a JCA member."

Steven Foldes, JCA Board Chair





## We Are All America—thoughts and reflections

We are all America, here in this land.

Different faiths and different pasts bringing us together to one stand.

Our focus is to be together, to help us live as one people.

With all our differences, we can move forward, separate but equal.

No need to step on anyone, but pull each other together to move along. Like a melodic chorus singing a

beautiful song.

On September 11, 2002 we gathered at the capitol.

Many faiths and cultures united to blend as leaves do in the fall.

You could see the different skin tones and hairdos,

as well as the various clothing and shoes.

The many accents were heard expressing the same theme,

to live, bend and work together as a team.

Meeting at the steps of the capital got us to focus on one goal.

How we've been thrown together to live peacefully, in one big bowl.

Robyn Alexander, Bet Shalom Congregation

"Yesterday's ceremony was beautiful and a most appropriate way to mark September 11. It was wonderful to see the diversity of those who gathered and hear the similarity of our thoughts at this time."

#### **Judith Tennebaum, JCA Board Member**

"I want to thank you for the tremendous effort put in by you and your team. It is very encouraging first to even have someone take this kind of initiative of pulling together such a diverse group and second to pull it off so successfully."

#### Rajinder Singh, Sikh Society of Minnesota

"I was so impressed and feel that was probably the most special event I have attended in a very long time."

Tom LaVenture, Managing Editor, Asian American Press





"It had a beautiful spirit. It was wonderful to see so many cultures and histories and religions represented. I believe that the Tibetan community was proud to be a part of it."

#### Ann Ayrault, Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota

"As we honor the diversity of the victims and heroes of September 11, let's recognize the strength and importance of our community of Americans and immigrants here in Minnesota, and rededicate ourselves to peace, non-violence, and human rights."

#### Vic Rosenthal, JCA Executive Director

"I was deeply moved by the beauty and power of the many different ways we all pray for peace....all the sounds, words, breaths, movements, vibrations and feelings, that are so different, and yet, at its core, the same. I felt honored to be able to witness the shared dream we all hold."

-Barbara Nordstrom-Loeb, JCA Member

## We Are All America: A Multifaith Social Justice Service for Healing, Reconciliation, and Commemoration

5:50 p.m.	Laos Drummers
6:00 p.m.	Welcome & "why we are here" by Vineeta Sawkar (anchor with Channel 5 ~ master of ceremonies) (2 minutes)
	Master of ceremonies says "to show we are community, please greet an old friend and meet someone new" (1 minute)
	Opening Prayer ~ Nahid Khan, American Muslim Council – Minnesota Chapter (1.5 minutes)
6:05 p.m.	Mayor R.T Rybak, Minneapolis (3 minutes)
6:10 p.m.	Mayor Randy Kelly, Saint Paul (3 minutes)
6:15 p.m.	America the Beautiful (verses 1 & 3) ~ with Hazzan Scott Buckner, Adath Jeshurun Congregation & Rabbi Sim Glaser, Temple Israel (3 minutes)
6:20 p.m.	Prayers offered by Rabbi Morris Allen, Congregation Beth Jacob & Rajinder Singh, Sikh Society of Minnesota (3 minutes)
6:25 p.m.	Former Prime Minister of Somalia, Ali Khalif (3 minutes)
6:30 p.m.	Pablo Tapia, ISAIAH Vice-president (3 minutes)
	Prayers offered by Ahsan Ansari, Islamic Center of Minnesota (1.5 minutes)
6:35 p.m.	Vineeta Sawkar will introduce Native Wind (2 minutes)
6:40 p.m.	Prayers offered by Buddhist monks from Cambodia, Laos, Tibet & Vietnam (3 minutes)
6:45 p.m.	Dr. Yang Dao, former member of the National Political Council of the Kingdom of Laos (3 minutes)
6:50 p.m.	Mahmoud El-Kati, professor Macalester College (3 minutes)
6:55 p.m.	Prayers offered by Reverend Al Galmon and Father John Estrem (3 minutes)
	Song: TBD with Hazzan Scott Buckner, Adath Jeshurun Congregation & Rabbi Sim Glaser, Temple Israel (1.5 minutes)
7:00 p.m.	Minute of silence (1 minute)

End of program

#### Kashmir - the land and people



- "More beautiful than heaven" Kalidas
- "An emerald set in pearls"- Lawrence
- · Against the backdrop of Himalayas



- Full name of state: Jammu and Kashmir
- 3 regions: Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir
- About the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> the size of Minnesota
- Multi-ethnic, multi-religion
- 64% Muslims, 33%Hindus, 3% Buddhists
- After the 1949 war, Pakistan controls the north part of J&K, India controls the south and east part.
- After the 1962 war with China, China invaded the east part of Ladakh

#### History prior to 1947



- Hindus in Kashmir prior to 274 BC
- · Muslim invasions into India
- Moghul Emperor Akbar conquered Kashmir
- British took over Kashmir in 1846
- British sold Kashmir to King Ghulab Singh
- King Hari Singh ruled till 1947

#### **British India and Indian India**

- Partition applied to "British India"
- "Indian India" consisting of Princely states could join India, Pakistan or remain as independent.
- 3 Princely states "Jammu & Kashmir", Junnagadh in Gujarat, Hyderabad in south India were not part of the partition of British India.
- Hari Singh facing aggression from Pakistan



sought protection from
India, appealed India's
Governor General Lord
Mountbatten and sent the
"Instrument of
Accession".

#### Kashmir - from 1947 to 2002

 Maharaja (King) Hari Singh appointed Sheik Abdullah as the administrator in 1947.



- Sheik Abdullah advised the King to accede to India.
- Convened a
   Constituent
   Assembly for the
   State of Jammu and
   Kashmir.
- "We the people of Jammu and

Kashmir, have thrown in our lot with the Indian people not in the heat of passion or a moment of despair, but by a deliberate choice."...Sheik Abdulla..June 1949

- "The state of Jammu and Kashmir is and shall be an integral part of the Union of India"...Constituent Assembly.1954
- Elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir every time, elections were held in the rest of India. Elections were held in 1954, 1957, 1964, 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1984.
- No free elections have been held in POK Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.



- In the 50+ years, the non-Muslim minority have been terrorized and driven out of their homes and their lands.
- Over 360,000

Kashmiri Pandits and other Hindus have been 'ethnically cleansed'

#### **UN Resolution**

- Jan 1, 1948, India referred the invasion of Pakistani tribesmen to the United Nations.
- The UN Resolution 47 dated April 21, 1948 has 3 parts and it is non-binding
- 1.0 Pakistan must withdraw from the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (POK)
- 2.0 Cessation of fighting and maintain law and order
- 3.0 Hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir



 In a firm endorsement of India's stand, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has said that "Lahore

Declaration and not UN resolutions could pave the way for a solution to the Kashmir issue"..march 18,2002

- Shimla agreement June 1972 at the conclusion of the war when Pakistan invaded India in December 3, 1971
- "Accept the Line of Control (LOC) as the permanent international border"
- Lahore Declaration Feb 21, 1999 Indian Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee went to



Lahore in Pakistan, met with Nawaz Sharif the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

• The two Prime Ministers signed the

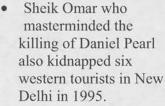
Lahore Declaration embodying their shared vision of peace and stability between their countries and of progress and prosperity for their peoples

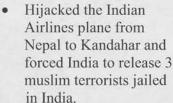
#### Terrorism

 Madarassas teach Quran and Jehad at the same time. They produce clerics and mullahs, not engineers and doctors.



• Pakistan under Miltary ruler Zia ul haq started the Talibans.







- Dec 16,2001 Attack on Indian Parliament
- Attack on the Kashmir State Assembly
  - How can anyone trust President Musharaaf's promises made in his speech on Jan 12?
- US has banned 2 terrorist groups – Lakshar –e-Toiba and

Jaish-e-Muhammad. But they change their names and resurface again.

 At least 10 people were killed on March 30, 2002, when suspected Islamic miltants armed with grenades and guns attacked the 150 year old temple in Jammu, the winter capital of the state...CNN

#### **Current US relations with Pakistan**

• President Clinton in his speech to the Indian



Parliament said,
"There are still those
who deny that
democracy is a
universal aspiration;
who say it works only
for people of a certain

culture, or a certain degree of economic development. India has been proving them wrong for 52 years now. Here is a country where more than 2 million people hold elected office in local government; a country that shows at every election that those who possess the least cherish their vote the most. Far from washing away the uniqueness of your culture, your democracy has brought out the richness of its tapestry, and given you the knot that holds it together".

#### What US must do?

- US is pouring aid to Pakistan. Let us make sure that we do not start another Taliban.
- Do not modernize the madarassas. Eliminate them. Instead create schools to create productive members of the society.
- Bring democracy back, not a puppet elected leader under a military ruler Musharaaf.
- Encourage Pakistan to be economically viable and take care of its people.
- Stop cross border terrorism across Kashmir
- Link aid to measurable progress in Pakistan.

#### Did you know that?

- India has the second largest Muslim population in the world after Indonesia (and not Pakistan)
- Nusli Wadia, the grandson of Ali Jinnah is the Managing Director of Bombay Dyeing, a large industrial unit in Bombay India.

Prepared by Minnesota Indo-American Education Forum (MIAEF) - March 2002

Mahatma Gandhi, believed in the universality of religion. He described them as highways, leading to the same destination. Let us begin today's presentation listening to the universal message of peace, harmony, and love from all the major religions of India.

We invite **Mr**. **Charulu Jaganatha** from the Hindu Temple of Minnesota to begin today's event with an invocation and a verse from the Hindu scriptures that says:

Lead us from the unreal to the real, Lead us from darkness to light, from Ignorance to Knowledge Lead us from death to immortality. Peace, Peace, and Peace unto us all.

After the invocation, <b>Ms. Kumud Kamran</b> & from the Geeta Ashram of Minnesota will recite a verse from the Bhagavad Geeta.
<b>Mr. Ahsan Ansari</b> , from the Islamic Center of Minnesota will recite a Muslim prayer.
<b>Mr Raj Singh,</b> from the Sikh Society will present a verse from the Guru Granth Sabh, the holy book of the Sikh faith.
<b>Dr. John Kaiyalethe</b> (Kai-yaa-lay-thay) will lead us in a Christian prayer.
<b>Mr. Ram Gada</b> from the Jain Center of Minnesota will recite a Jain prayer.
<b>Mrs. Banu Irani</b> will conclude this part of the program with a prayer from the Avesta, the holy book of Zorastrians.

In the aftermath of the tragic September 11 events, many of Indian-American organizations successfully held events to raise funds for the relief efforts. Depending on the size of the organization and the wishes of its members, different sums of money have been collected and different relief organizations will receive the individual checks.

We are here today to unite these successful efforts and show our support and solidarity as one group--- as Indian-Americans of Minnesota.

Representatives of each of these Indian organization will come up here as I announce their names. Please hold your applause until the end.

- 1:The Asian Indian Women's Association, represented by Ms. Nayana Ramakrishnan,
- 2:The Bocha sangh wasi Swaminarayan Sans-tha, represented by Mr. Kamlesh Patel.
- 3: The Bengali Association of Minnesota, represented by President Mr Hironmoy Das.
- 4: The Geeta Ashram of Minnesota, .represented by Mr. Kunal Kamran
- 5: The Hindu Society of Minnesota, represented by the Board of Trustees Chair, Dr. Kumud Sane.
- 6: The India Association of Minnesota represented by President, Dr. Vipin Gopal.
- 7. The Indian Music Society of Minnesota, represented by Mr. Ramakrishnan.
- 8: The Islamic Society represented by President, Mr. A.J Siddiqui.
- 9: The Jain Center of Minnesota represented by President, Mr. Ram Gada.
- 10: The Katha Dance theater represented by the its artistic director, Ms. Rita Musthaphi.
- 11: The Malayali Association of Minnesota represented by Dr. K.P. Subramanyam

12: The Marathi Mandal of Minnesota represented by President, Dr. Raj Khankari (Khan-Curry)

13: The Sikh Society of Minnesota represented by Treasurer, Mr. Rajinder Singh.

14: And finally, the School of India for Languages and Culture, represented by President Ms. Chitra Subramanyam.

## CHECK BROUGHT OUT by SCOUTS.

On behalf of the Indian Americans of Minnesota, I request the Secretary of State, Mary Kiffmeyer, Senator Satveer Chaudhary, and Mayor-Elect Randy Kelly to please come up and accept a check for a total of Thirty thousand dollars.

#### APPLAUSE.

We are so honored to have in our midst today, three public leaders who took the time off from their busy schedules to be with us.

At this point I'd like to invite Secretary of State, Mary Kiffmeyer, to please share a few words with us.

Senator Satveer Chaudhary, thank you for all the help you and your staff have given us in arranging this event. Could you please share a few words too?

Mayor-Elect Randy Kelly, could you please say a few words too?

Thank you very much.

Unfortunately, Senator Paul Wellstone could not be here today. He has however sent the following message.

To conclude today's program, I now invite Dr. Kumud Sane, and Mr. Ram Gada to help us share a moment of silence and lead us all in a universal prayer especially composed for the September 11<sup>th</sup> event. The words are in the back of your program notes.

Strength in unity. That is what we have seen today. Thank you all for coming together and expressing the force of this strength. As Senator Paul Wellstone said in his message, even though tragic circumstances have brought us here today, we can build on this momentum and

together, as Indian-Americans continue to be an integral part of this beautiful country.

Thank you all and please join us for refreshments downstairs in the Great Hall.

July Hallum

The President
The Board Members

Please allow me to take a little of your valuable time from your busy lives.

In the last two Board Meetings, I raised my voice about two issues, IAM's endorsement policy and Gujarat riots. I have no regret about what I said but I have a feeling that the President and all Board Members or some of you might have felt bad about how I told it in the last Board Meeting. I am sorry, if I have hurt anybody's feeling in anyway which was not at all my intention. The Gujarat issue has upset me a lot and my outburst was an only matter of high emotions not a complaint or any kind of grudge against any of you. I believe in being a part of solution and not part of a problem.

The task of writing the resolution was given to me, which now I feel I should not have taken that responsibility. I wrote the way I wanted and I don't have any regrets about it. It was changed by some colleagues, which I e-mailed to the President, which now I understand is going to be further modified. It's up to the Board Members to decide what ever you want, it's ok with me.

There is lot of information available on Internet, newspapers (both in Indian and abroad) and magazines. I took some time and put some effort to collect a very little news on Gujarat from various sources. Indian journalists have done a wonderful job for the first time. This is a my sincere request to you just read the information whenever you have time (please don't throw away in the waste paper basket) and think it over about our Motherland, India and what is happening there. Living abroad here, we still have some responsibility towards our countrymen back home, especially towards disadvantaged few over the advantaged.

The only request I have is please read these articles from a humanitarian point of view not in the light of some religious color or political sides. I have tried to pick up the articles written and reported and printed by only Non-Muslim Journalists. I strongly believe that any Indian who believes, acts and promotes anything else other then what is written in the constitution of India is an Anti India.

After all, why we, the Board Members should feel concern about all this? Simply because we are responsible, well educated and concern elements of IAM!!

Please excuse my absence from this meeting.

Thanks for your time.

Iqbal Ahmed

DISCOVERY

## **New Literary** Lion

Hari Kunzru gets \$3million advance for his debut novel > M2



**SPOTLIGHT** 

Boom!

Padma Lakshmi comes to Mumbai > M8



## A REDIFF PUBLICATION India / lahladaladada.Harbilalalahan didirilara dibiak

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## Mr Sinha comes to Washington



Gujarat carnage will not impact Indian economy, says the finance minister > 35

**NEWS SPECIAL** 

## Referendum a 'done deal'



A shady victory for President Pervez Muchareafiell

## UK-based Gujaratis seek war crime indictment of Gujarat CM

SHYAM BHATIA in London

British-based Gujarati Muslims seeking war crime indictments against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi and at least two of his cabinet colleagues say they have been heartened by crosscommunity support they received from the UK, India and the United States.

The British group, based in the small West Yorkshire town of

Batley, is made up of friends and ethical investment fund in in Yorkshire. relatives of a victim, Mohammed Aswat, and his missing companions, Shakil and Saeed Dawood, who were on holiday in India when they were caught up in mob violence.

The Batley group seeking justice on their behalf has evolved into a de facto action committee of 15. It includes Sulaiman Qazi, a cousin of Aswat's, social worker Mohammed Zeena and economist Habib Akudi who works for an

Yorkshire.

They are united by their sense of outrage at the slaughter of innocents with what they describe as the apparent complicity, if not downright connivance, of local Gujarati politicians. In their bid to serve murder charges on Modi, Revenue Minister Haren Pandya and Home Minister Gordhan Zadaphiya, the Batley 15 say they have been encouraged by support from fellow Muslims and Hindus

Among them is solicitor Vipul Thakker, who is helping them prepare their arguments for the International Human Rights Court at The Hague. They also say they have received support from Teesta Setalvad who heads the Communalism Combat organization based in Mumbai.

"We want to create a springboard in Batley to generate fur-

PAGE 6

The Gujarat riots were the result of the trouble created by the leadership The problem today is that old leaders are running the country. An old generation never builds a nation

The country has to be restructured. Governments have largely failed during the last 55 years

# Nanaji Deshmukh

Jana Sangh stalwart and renowned Indian social activist, in conversation with **Tara Shankar Sahay** 

Twenty two years after he renounced active politics, the founder member of the Jana Sangh has continued to be a voice of caution from the fringes of India's political spectrum.

Anguished by the riots in Gujarat, which he termed as a 'heartrending genocide,' the octogenarian has spoken out against the unabated violence in the state.

Nominated to the Rajya Sabha—the Upper House of the Indian Parliament—in 1999, he quit politics at 60 to immerse in rural social work in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. With the aim of connecting with the rural masses, he assisted them in the fields of education and agriculture.

A fervent supporter of Jayaprakash Narayan [the revered socialist leader who launched a provinces to be carved out. Why? Because the intention is to become its leader.

Some states like Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have come into existence [new states created in 2001]. The whole idea behind the agitation for the formation of such states is not the betterment of the area or its people. The basic craving is that if the state legislature or assembly comes up, one can be a minister or chief minister or somebody who can enjoy the fruits of governmental office.

Otherwise it is not possible to acquire these things. So the leadership of the political personality is really limited to an area. For instance, [Bahujan Samaj Party vice-president] Mayawati stands on the Dalit votes, somebody depends on the OBC [Other Backward Caste] factor.

bagfuls of money. Where is it coming from? It is evident it is coming from the black market [unaccounted economy].

The people who finance a party or a candidate naturally expect that in return, those they have sent to power will take care of their expectations. Governments are thus formed on the basis of corruption. How can corruption be eradicated from our society?

I am appalled when I hear some leaders preach that they will eradicate corruption.

Political parties should concentrate on nation-building by looking after the people's interest and not pursue those, which are detrimental to them.

What are your comments on the Gujarat riots and the country's secular credentials? I have no doubt that the Gujarat SONDEEP SHAMKARSAAB PICTURES

After all, the life of the country is permanent factor. So the new gen-

political party and every political leader has propagated that if peo-



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# CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE RELIEF & REHABILITATION OPERATION OFFICE

#### 9th March 2002

## Report from Nicole Road, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad

On 28th February 2002 Jameel Mohammed Kureshi, staying in the Gujarat Housing Society of this area since 1955 was attacked by a mob. He tried to escape along with his father. He tried to defend himself and his father with whatever he could get hold of. Against such a large number of people it was not easy to defend himself. His father fell down in front of their house and was hit by a sickle. The mob then threw burning tyres and mattresses on the man. Jameel Mohammed saw, with his own eyes, his father being burnt alive. He fled to save his own life.

The man they say who is behind this is none other than the State Home Minister. Gordhan Jhadaphia. who stays there and is to be found there practically daily at the Maruti Pan Centre.

For more details get in touch with: Ismail Bhatti, 16 Al Badar Park, Narol Road, Near Canal. Vatva. Ph. No. 5735898.

Reported	by	James	C.	Dabhi,	s.i	
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## Why do we think the "riots" are state-sponsored terrorism?

Following are the reasons that were gathered during our visits of the victims, which led to the widely spoken of conclusion namely, that the state machinery played a partisan role in connivance with the fundamentalist forces.

- The assaulting mob was in hundreds and thousands. Can a spontaneous reaction to Godhra incident be so widely and efficiently orchestrated within less than 24 hours?
- 2. They were seen communicating on mobiles from the riot venues, receiving instructions and orders form a coordinating centre.
- 3. Some were seen with documents and computer sheets looking like inventories. Were they lists of minority business houses and shops acquired from administrative sector?
- 4. The mobs came in trucks and other vehicles. To come to riot from immediate neighbourhood or close vicinity, one needs no means of conveyance. Were they sent from far off places with a definite mission?
- 5. Localities naturally hard of brickbats were found with them strewn all over. Trucks from outside brought them in. was it not a definite coordination by forces other than local?
- 6. Sophisticated explosive materials and gas cylinders used for explosions are too rare to be available for a spontaneous reaction.
- 7. Enormously large scale looting and arson was carried out within 12 hours. Could an unplanned operation of disturbance flare up like wild fire in such a short spell?
- 8. The victims could barely identify the assaulters by face. Thus they were outsiders employed or instigated against the local people.

futile.

Therefore we would like to even hesitate to call them communal riots. In the present day it has little to do with one community against another. It does have historical roots but it has gone far off from its original motives. It is now ethnic cleansing in a totalitarian, fascist style state using an organisation, a community to achieve its own vested interest and vice-versa. It is a joint effort to render a community extinct. Lest one begins to check for some religious dichotomies in these riots, it is necessary to know where the roots lie. Lasting peace of an ocean flows from its depths. The stormy and destructive tidal waves are caused by external factors like changes in air pressure.

Vinavak Jadav

This is a translated version of a leaflet being circulated by "Hindutva" forces. The venom being spouted is unbelievable and shameful for a country wedded to secularism and tolerance. Moreover, it is nothing short of an infringement of the human rights of members of a particular religion. This should be treated as a criminal act of violation of human rights of Muslims and condemned and opposed in no uncertain terms.

(If you are a true Hindu then make 100 copies of this and distribute this in other localities).

Jai Shri Ram Arise! Awake! Think! Implement! Save the nation! Save the religion!

Economic blockade is the only solution. Anti-national elements, who are earning with the support of us Hindus, are using our own money to bankrupt us. Buying weapons! Raping our sisters-daughters! The solution to breaking the backbone of these elements: economic non-cooperation movement. Come, let us pledge together:

- 1. Hence forth I will never buy anything from a Muslim shopkeeper
- 2. I will never sell goods from my shop to them.
- 3. Never to use the hotels of these anti-nationals! Neither their garages!
- 4. I will take my vehicle only to a Hindu-owned garage. Not to buy any items produced by Muslims, from a needle to gold, nor to sell them anything produced by us.
- 5. Boycott the films starring Muslim actors-actresses. Throw out the films made by antinational film makers.
- 6. Never find employment in Muslim establishments. Never employ them in our offices.

Such a strict economic blockade will stifle these anti-national elements. And it will break them. Then it will be impossible for them to live in any corner of this nation. Friends, implement this from today itself. Then no Muslim will dare to raise his head against us. Have you read this leaflet? Then make 10 photo copies of this leaflet and distribute it among our brothers. Exhortation in the name of Hanumanji and Lord Ram to anyone who does not implement this. Jai shri Ram!

- A true Hindu patriot

(If you are a true Hindu and love our religion and our country then implement this even at some personal cost and get women also to implement this.)

## CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE

# RELIEF & REHABILITATION OPERATION OFFICE ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY AHMEDABAD

7th March 2002

## Gujarat 2002 – The Laboratory of *Hindutva* State-sponsored terrorism

The prototype of 'Ram Rajya' and the laboratory of 'Hindutva' which the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) had promised the nation have come to fruition in Gujarat today. The cowardice, the dehumanised barbarity and the criminalised hooliganism which have been on display since 28th February is the true face of the Sangh Parivar. The veil of hypocrisy has been mercifully shattered once and for all – the only outcome one can take solace in. What we have witnessed in Gujarat this time is state-sponsored terrorism; all the arms of the state – its ministers, the police force, the administration, the fire brigade – chose to look the other way in the face of the violence being unleashed on the Muslim population. It was not only restricted to that. The victims who have been interviewed have reported that the police have not just looked the other way but have actively colluded and aided the rioting mobs everywhere. The fear, mistrust, tension and uncertainty that the people of Gujarat are experiencing today are certainly unprecedented and alien.

#### How and when it happened:

It all began on the morning of the 27th of February when a rioting mob set fire to 2 bogies of the Sabarmati Express coming with *kar sevaks* from Ayodhya where the VHP has given a call for the building of the temple. When the train took off from the Godhra station after a stop of about 3 minutes, the chain was pulled and the train stopped just outside the Godhra station. Immediately a mob of about 500 - 1000 came on the scene and set fire to the two bogies – S-6 and S-8. This condemnable act of inhumanity took the life of about 58 persons and many more were in hospital with second and third degree burns.

Following this incident violence broke out in various parts of Gujarat starting with Godhra. The VHP gave a call for a state-wide *bandh* on 28th February to protest against the brutality in Godhra.

On the day of the bandh all hell broke loose as rampaging mobs, mainly comprising members of the VHP, RSS, Bajrang Dal and ABVP (all members of the Sangh Parivar), went around spreading terror, looting, burning, rioting, murdering and raping. All this was being done with the active encouragement of the state Home Minister Mr. Gordhan Jhadaphia. He is reported to have told a police personnel trying to do his duty to let the mob do what it wanted: "don't stop them; they are holy and what they are doing is a holy act". At another place a fire brigade member who was trying to put out the fire was told by the mob "tamare holavu chhe ke mari javu chhe" (do you want to put out the fire or die?). The fire brigade reportedly had clear instructions not to act anywhere without police protection and no police protection was provided to them anywhere therefore they have not acted anywhere.

At many places the rioting mobs, in a repeat of the Godhara incident, set fire to many houses, burning the persons inside the house.

In this situation the NGOs of Ahmedabad came together to provide relief and succour to the affected people. The following NGOs are involved in the relief of the riot-affected:

- 1. Behavioural Science Centre (BSC);
- 2. St. Xavier's Social Service Society (XSSS);
- 3. Saath;
- 4. ANALA:
- 5. Janvikas:
- 6. Navsarjan;
- 7. Sanchetna;
- 8. Darshan;
- 9. Vishwa Gujarat Samaj;
- 10. Anjali Hospital (Ranasar);
- 11. Gurjarvani;
- 12. Premal Jyoti;
- 13. St. Xavier's College;
- 14. Ahmedabad Community Foundation;
- 15. Samarth;
- 16. Mahila Patchwork;
- 17. Action Aid:
- 18. Oxfam;
- 19. Abhigam Collective;
- 20. Darpana Academy;
- 21. Eklavya Foundation;
- 22. Prashant:

along with numerous other committed individuals and volunteers. The headquweters fo the relief initiative is at St. Xavier's Social Service Society (XSSS), Ahmedabad.

The number and location of the relief camps being run are provided below:

Location	Number of people in the camp			
Gomtipur, Saraspur and Bapunagar				
Aman Chowk, Bapunagar	5000			
Chartola Kabrastan, Gomtipur	1000			
Bombay Housing, Saraspur	1000			
Anand Flats, Bapunagar	500			
Municipal School No.s 5 & 6	500			
Patrawala Masjid, Saraspur	500			
Monogram Mill Compound, Rakhial	1000			
Sundramnagar, Bapunagar	1200			
Vhora-ni-chawl, Saraspur	100			
Samundar Khan ni Latti, Saraspur	300			
Bakarshah Roja	2000			
Pirshah Ahmed na Roja	2000			
Madhavbhai Mill Compound	1500			
Municipal School, Sundramnagar	2000			
AMC School, Rajpur Tolnaka	500			
Jamalpur, Shah	-e-alam and Vatva			
Al-madina, Vatva	750			

# Hindus avenge deadly train fire

More than 100 Muslims are killed by mobs in India

From News Services

AHMADABAD, INDIA — Angry Hindus set fire to homes in a shantytown in western India today, killing at least 27 Muslims as they slept, police said. The latest violence raises the death toll in the attacks on the religious minority to more than 100.

At least 76 people died in attacks Thursday, when Hindu mobs rampaged through Ahmadabad in western India, burning Muslims alive in their houses and setting fire to Muslim-owned restaurants, shops, cars and apartments.

irs and apartments.



Manish Swarup/Associated Press

Mobs roamed Ahmadabad, India, on Thursday, bent on revenge for Wednesday's train fire that killed 58 people. The attackers burned Muslims alive in their houses and set fire to vehicles, businesses and homes. The city of 5 million in Gujarat State has India's worst record of Hindu-Muslim violence.



India's ruling party

#### **Shameless**

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The BJP is trying to capitalise on a wave of killing

HERE is an irony: India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has for several years seemed to treat its Hindu-nationalist ideology as a political liability. Now, when that ideology is showing its dangerous and shameful side, the party has suddenly chosen to reaffirm it. Little more than a month ago, Hindu mobs in Gujarat, a BJP-ruled state, slaughtered hundreds of Muslims. The atrocities began as revenge for an attack by Muslims on a train carrying Hindu pilgrims, in which 58 people burnt to death. More than 800 people have died in violence that still has not ended.

Last weekend, at a meeting of its executive body in Goa, the BJP not only rejected opposition calls for the sacking of Gujarat's chief minister, who seems to care more for the mainly Hindu murderers than the mainly Muslim victims, but invited him to hold early elections in the state, in effect capitalizing on the carnage. India's prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, whose reputation for tolerance makes the BJP acceptable to most of its 18 coalition



Vajpayee (top) won't sack Modi

Hong Kong and dissidents

# One country, two systems

HONG KONG

#### Except when China doesn't like it

TVEN those who are routinely cynica Labout Hong Kong's supposed auton omy from China were surprised this week when officials at Hong Kong's airport refused entry to a Chinese-born American citizen and put him on the next flight out The unlucky visitor, Harry Wu, is no frience of officialdom in Beijing-he became famous for exposing China's exploitation of prison labour, for which, in 1995, the regime convicted him of "spying for Taiwan" and expelled him. But that is supposed to be beside the point. Mr Wu had already paid several visits to Hong Kong, both before and after its return to Chinese sover eignty in 1997. And in any case, Hong Kong, at least in theory, runs an independent and apolitical immigration policy.

Moreover, Hong Kong had appeared only last year to set a precedent for letting Mr Wu in, when it allowed another Chinese-born American whom the Chinese had sentenced and kicked out for "spying for Taiwan", Li Shaomin, to return to Hong Kong, Mr Li, a professor of marketing at a



### **Provocation Helped Set India Train Fire**

Official Faults Hindu Actions, Muslim Reactions for Incident That Led to Carnage

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran Washington Post Foreign Service Wednesday, March 6, 2002; Page A10

GODHRA, India, March 5 – For two days, as the Sabarmati Express snaked across northern India, some Hindu activists in cars S-5 and S-6 carried on like hooligans. They exposed themselves to other passengers. They pulled headscarves off Muslim women. They evicted a family of four in the middle of the night for refusing to join in chants glorifying the Hindu god Ram. They failed to pay for the tea and snacks they consumed at each stop.

When the train pulled into this hardscrabble town in western India on the morning of Feb. 27, the reputation of its rowdiest passengers preceded it. When they refused to pay for their food, Muslim boys among the vendors at Godhra station stormed the train.



## FACTS ABOUT VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD (VHP) (WORL HINDU COUNCIL)

By: Kaleem Kawaja

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) (World Hindu Council) was formed about 50 years ago in India, with the objective of spreading the Brahmin version of Hinduism among the masses, and to remind Hindus of their heritage. In the beginning, VHP was based largely in Hindu temples and performed religious work. However, about 30 years ago it started becoming a militant and fundamentalist Hindu organization, that started an aggressive campaign to oppose the religious minorities in India and justified the millennium-old suppression of low-caste Hindus by the upper-caste Hindus.

VHP people think that other religious faiths that have spread in India over the millennium have polluted India. Hence, VHP wants to either eliminate other faiths from India, or subjugate the followers of other faiths to a status subservient to Hindus. In the pursuit of this goal, VHP cadres frequently use large-scale organized violence against minorities and low caste Hindus. VHP's self-proclaimed goal is to convert India into a theocratic Hindu state where religious and caste minorities will be second class citizens.

As many Hindus migrated from India to Europe and North America, VHP opened branches in many Western countries, about 35 years ago. In the beginning VHP in Western countries was largely based in Hindu temples, preaching Hinduism among the Hindu youth. However, starting in the early 1980s it imported its militant, fundamentalist ethos to Western countries from India. In fact it began a well-funded aggressive campaign to persuade Hindu expatriates in Western countries, that they should provide financial assistance to VHP's campaign in India, to rid India of people of other religious faiths. In the West, VHP opened branches in many Universities called Hindu Students Sangh (HSS) (Hindu Students Council).

In the last 20 years in India, VHP has made use of violent methods to implement its negative sectarian agenda, a standard Operating Procedure. Beginning in the early 1980s, VHP in conjunction with its sister political party, Bharti Janata Party (BJP), launched a nation-wide campaign to remove several ancient mosques in several towns e.g. Ayodhya, Mathura, Varanasi, Agra, and to replace them with Hindu temples. They spread false & fabricated stories saying that these mosques were built by demolishing earlier Hindu temples. Even though they have so far been unable to provide any credible historical or archaeological or even mythological account to back their claims, they have persisted with made-up stories.

This strategy to incite the religious sentiments of Hindus and to exploit them, to generate hatred against religious minorities in India, notably Muslims and Christians, is the core element of the VHP strategy in India.

In the mid 1980s VHP started a violent campaign to remove the 450-year-old Babri mosque in Ayodhya, North India, and build a Hindu temple in its place. Their rationale was that a Muslim king built this mosque after demolishing a Hindu temple to commemorate the mythological Hindu god-king Rama. They organized massive militant and violent rallies all over India for this purpose. Along with these rallies VHP organized hundreds of anti-Muslim riots in many cities in India, that resulted in the killing of over a hundred thousand innocent Muslims, and the destruction of countless houses, businesses, institutions, places of worship. On December 6, 1992 VHP held one such violent rally at Ayodhya in which it demolished the ancient Babri mosque.

At the same time in December 1992/January 1993, it organized violent anti-Muslim riots in major Indian cities e.g. Bombay, New Delhi, Bhopal, Surat, Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad. The number of Muslims killed in those riots is estimated by the Indian Human Rights groups to be over 5,000. Property worth about \$750 million belonging to Muslims was destroyed.

In 1984 when India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two of her Sikh security guards, VHP organized violent anti-Sikh riots in many North Indian cities e.g. New Delhi, Kanpur, Meerut, Patna, Jamshedpur, Bhopal, Jaipur. Indian Human Rights groups have reported that over 4,000 Sikhs were killed in this sectarian violence.

In 1998, after VHP's sister political party BJP formed the Indian government, VHP moved aggressively against India's Christian minorities. In the states of Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, the militant VHP cadres demolished and burnt several Christian churches, killed Christian pastors, missionaries, nuns, including Reverend Graham Staines & his children, originally from Australia.

In February/March 2002, VHP cadres organized massive violent anti-Muslim violence in several cities and villages in the state of Gujarat. They killed about 1,000 defenseless Muslim men, women and children, often by herding them in houses and setting them on fire. The VHP goons also burnt businesses, stores, schools, institutions, offices, hotels, and restaurants belonging to the Muslim citizens. This financial loss is estimated to be over \$600 million.

In addition to organizing riots against non-Hindus, VHP cadres in many cities in the North Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana have organized violent attacks against low caste Hindus, killing them, burning their houses etc and terrorizing them.

VHP is continuing with its violent campaign to build a Hindu temple at the site of the demolished Babri mosque in defiance of the ruling of the Supreme Court of India, which has ordered a High Court in Allahabad (UP) to investigate the claim made by VHP that the Babri mosque was built by a Muslim king after demolishing a Hindu temple. VHP continues to proclaim that, neither they will wait for the court's ruling nor they will accept the court's ruling, if it is not in favour.

The press in India and the international press have often published accounts of VHP's gory violence against India's religious and caste minorities, and their very nefarious social agenda.

For about 20 years now VHP has continued to raise huge funds from expatriate Indian Hindus who live in US, and send it to VHP in India, where these funds are used for VHP's above described activities to terrorize, kill and intimidate the religious minorities there e.g. Muslims, Christians and Sikhs.

Every year prominent leaders of VHP in India, e.g. Giriraj Kishore, Ashok Singhal, VH Dalmia, visit major cities in North America, European countries, and hold meetings with expatriate Hindus. These meetings are fundraising events where tens of millions of dollars are raised, and sent to VHP in India to finance their above-mentioned violent campaign.

In US, VHP maintains a headquarter in Connecticut and offices in several states. They also maintain a website, the address being: www.vhp-america.org

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is due

by the Uttar Pradesh government for rewriting history and reshaping mathematics in high schools from this academic session and the theory propounded by Hitler for remodelling the educational system which existed in Germany after World War I, are too close for comfort. The BJP government feels that history needed to be rewritten since the Aryans were not outsiders as is erroneously believed by present-day historians but natives of India. It maintains, according to the state's education minister, that

THE uncanny resemblance between the argument forwarded

al ats, adeven elves. . waststudythere is incontrovertible historical than evidence to substantiate this claim. nt in The government believes that the ed for students ought to be made aware of e good their glorious culture and civily the ilisation as was created by the some Aryans. It is also of the opinion ess ad that instead of glorifying invaders rators, (both Muslims and Christians) as . They :epare all the somefor exlittees. ccesses

was being done so far, the textbooks should eulogise the deeds of heroes belonging to their own culture and civilisation. Same Logic The same logic is advanced by it for introducing changes in the mathematics syllabus. Vedic mathematics has been introduced in high school textbooks in order to make the students aware that the theories, which form the basis of all modern mathematics, were propounded by ancient Indian

period.

Hitler in his Mein Kampf had this to say about education in general and history in particular: "A reform of particular importance is that which ought to take place in the present method of teaching history. If politics means history in the making, then our way of teaching history stands condemned by the way we have conducted our politics. History must be studied as a guide to the future and to teach us what policy would be the best to

follow for the preservation of our

world but the history of civilisation as a whole must be taught in the light of this principle.... 1 1444

How is the BJP argument that the way history is taught to students is responsible for the chaotic state of affairs of our present day politics any different from what Hitler had to say about the teaching of history in his own country? Similarly, the argument for introducing yedic mathematics sounds similar to the one given by Hitler for bringing about changes in the teaching of sciences in his own country. Not only subjects like history and sciences, but the emphasis put on physical education and military training by Hitler is similar to the type of training provided at the shakhas organised by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), 'Hitler was of the opinion that the "state must organise its educational work in such a way that the bodies of the young will be systematically trained from infancy onwards so as to be tempered and hardened for the demands to be made on them in later years." (Mein Kampf).

He laid similar emphasis on military training too. Besides, Hitler stresses that values like obedience, discipline, loyalty, discretion, reticence, self-sacrifice, willpower, and the habit of taking firm decisions should be inculcated in the students. חוטני פג'

Even Alfred Rosenberg, who was considered the main propagator of the principal statement of national socialist ideology, the Nazi ideology, finds reflection in the BJP'S philosophy. Expanding the race theory, Rosenberg in his Der Mythus des 20. Jahrhunderts (1930) writes: "all history must be re-written and re-interpreted (in terms of the struggle between races and their characteristic ideals or more specifically as a struggle between the Aryan or culture-creating races and all the lower breeds of mankind."

Vague Resemblance Like the arguments provided by

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#### kawaja

From: Harsh Kapoor <aiindex@mnet.fr>

To: aiindex@mnet.fr

Subject: BJP RSS Intimidation of the Christians in India

Date: Saturday, July 11, 1998 4:09 PM



Dear friends

The following article by Manini Chatterjee, a respected senior Indian journalist, was released by the Indian News Service yesterday. It was published in the Asian Age today, 11 July 1998, and other newspapers.

We request you to post this information widely

#### MANINI CHATTERJEE

The Bharatiya Janata Party-run Delhi government's move earlier this month to remove churches from the list of places of worship because sacramental wine is distributed there is not an isolated instance of hurting the sentiments of the minority Christian community and threaten its identity. Over the last few years and more so in the last three months, there has been a systematic plan executed by RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena cadres to denigrate, harass, intimidate and terrorise the miniscule Christian community in India who number around 23 million forming barely 2.6 per cent of the Indian population.



# CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE RELIEF & REHABILITATION OPERATION OFFICE ST. XAVIER'S SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY AHMEDABAD

7th March 2002

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#### How and when it happened:

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The number and location of the relief camps being run are provided below:

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Madhavbhai Mill Compound	1500			
Municipal School, Sundramnagar	2000			
AMC School, Rajpur Tolnaka	500			
	-e-alam and Vatva			
Al-madina, Vatva	750			

The fall out of this brutal murder of humanity by the state administration are going to be very grim indeed.

Firstly, there will be complete ghettoisation of residential and commercial localities. Whatever few voices of sanity were trying to put up a resistance to communalisation of the atmosphere have also now been terrorised into silence and conformity.

Secondly, for the Muslims the concept of rehabilitation has changed completely. Would they want to be rehabilitated in this country? Would they even want to remain citizens of this country? Not very likely.

Terrorism will be on the rise in the state which has so far remained free of these influences, by and large. It would become very dangerous for ordinary citizens to roam the streets freely as they used to do earlier.

#### Demands:

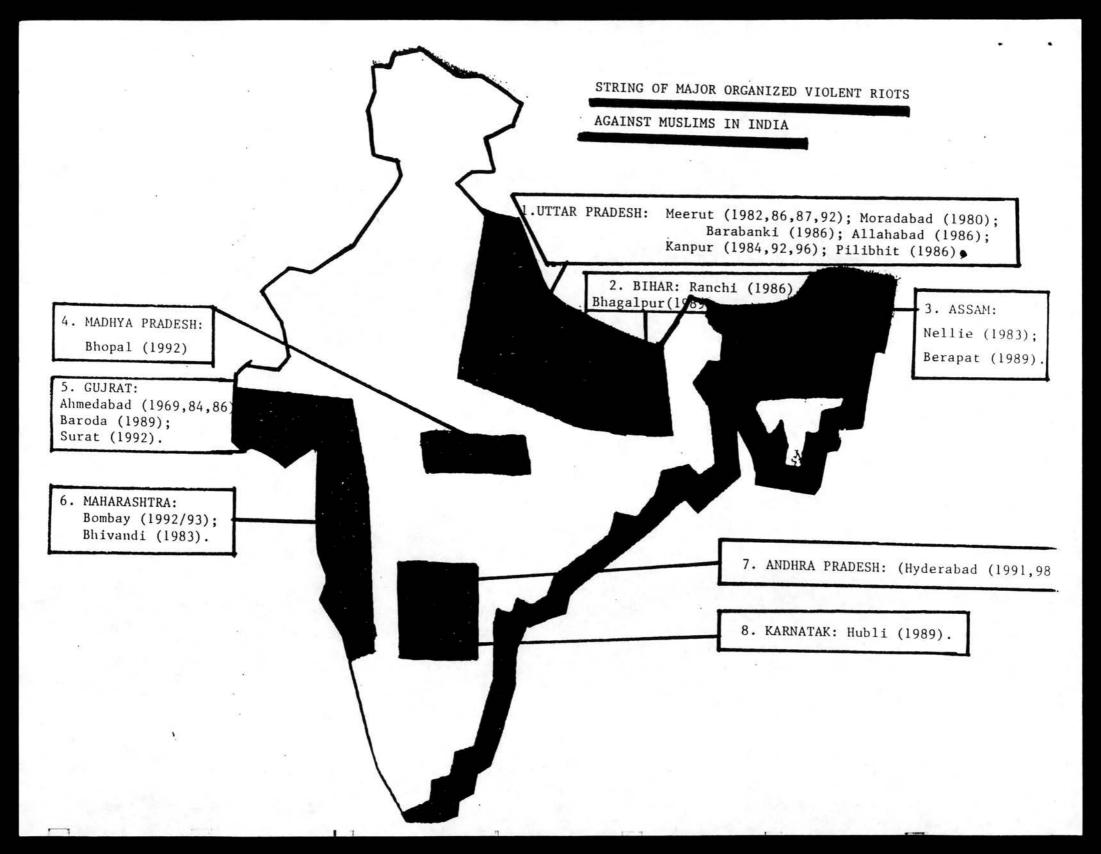
The demands of the people in the camps we visited:

- The present government has lost the moral right to govern and therefore must step down immediately. What happened in Godhra is certainly to be condemned. What happened after Godhra in not a reaction but is an act of terrorism abetted by the State. The motive of the people behind the massacre is premeditated ethnic cleansing. No conscientious Indian can and should allow this to happen.
- 2. The guilty in Godhra as well as those who have masterminded the massacre in Ahmedabad and in rural Gujarat must all be apprehended and punished.
- 3. Since the state is accused of being a party to the carnage with the police acting as an accomplice to this crime the investigation be handed to the CBI.
- 4. An inquiry commission must be set up with more than one judge. The judges should represent the secular ethos of this country.
- 5. The commission must submit its report within two months and the report must be acted upon unlike many other such fact-finding reports which are not made public or acted upon.
- 6. All organisations of the Sangh Parivar like the RSS, VHP, Bajrang Dal, the ABVP, the Durga Vahini, must be banned.
- Full compensation to the victims of Godhra and the systematic carnage after Godhra. The damage to property and assets inflicted on the minority community must be fully compensated by the State.

Tomorrow's report will include:

Some first-hand reports of the brutality which the volunteers have reported; "Why we think the riots are state-sponsored terrorism?;

A copy of an appeal made to Hindus by some Sangh Parivar outfit for an economic blockade of the Muslim community.



Date: Tue, 29 Sep 1998 19:57:47 +0200

X-Sender: aiindex@mail.mnet.fr

To: aiindex@mnet.fr

From: Harsh Kapoor <aiindex@mnet.fr>

Subject: (foil-1) Hindu fundamentalist groups justify rape of nuns in India

Sender: Owner-1011-18mall.Serve.com

Reply-To: Harsh Kapoor <aiindex@mnet.fr>

FYI

Harsh Kapoor

South Asia Citizens Web

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Note from John Dayal : The authoritative Indian newspaper The Hindu, published from New Delhi and many southern cities, carried the following report in its edition of Tuesday, 29 September 1998: The RSS and the VHP are two wings of the Sangh Parivar or the Hindutva family of which the Bharatiya Janata party, which now rules India and many of its states, is a part. The Christian community has confronted the Prime Minister and the home minister, Mr. L K Advani both of who belong to the BJP and have been its past presidents, to denounce and disown this statement. A delegation of Catholics, consisting of catholic Bishops Conference of India Archbishop Alan De Lastic, Bishop Vincent Concessao and John Dayal of the laity All India catholic Union, confronted Advani with this report when they called on him this morning. Advani disowned the report, called VHP leader Ashok Singhal, and told him to denounce the rape of catholic nuns in Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh, Advani also promised high level enquiries into the rape as well as into several earlier incidents of violence including the exhumation of a body in Kapadwanj in Gujarat and the burning of Bibles in Rajkot in the state of Gujarat, Mr. Advani'' political constituency. However till late tonight, there was no statement from any organisation of the Sangh Parivar, including the VHP and the RSS denouncing Mr. Prem's statement. The Marxist groups have condemned the VHP statement)

#### VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD JUSTFIES ATTACK ON INDIAN NUNS

New Deini, September 28:

An attempt is being made by the fanatic fringe in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh to virtually justify the savage attacks on minorities on the grounds that they represent `anti-national forces' which were working against Hindu interests.

This section has demanded that the Center must throw out of the country who 'tempt Hindus' to convert to Christianity and who through their schools spread anti-Hindu sentiments.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council), an RSS outfit, today stated that the recent incidents of violence against Christian missionaries in Jhabua in the state of Madhya Pradesh and Baghpat (in Uttar Pradesh) were the result of `anger of patriotic Hindu youth against the anti-national forces.' Virtually justifying the attacks, the VHP has demanded that these missionaries be asked `to pack up and leave the country.'





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 12, 2002

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#### U.S. Must Help India Foster a Climate of Religious Tolerance, Commission Says

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has observed with great concern the rioting between religious groups in India over the past weeks that has taken more than 600 lives. Reports indicate that both Hindus and Muslims have instigated violence. In all cases, regardless of who the perpetrators are, the Commission unequivocally condemns such attacks and urges the U.S. government to press Indian authorities to exercise their power immediately to halt the atrocities and violence and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In its report of May 1, 2001, the Commission expressed its concern about the recent increase in violence against religious minorities in India, particularly Muslims and Christians, that has been associated with the rise in power of Hindu nationalist organizations, including the Vishna Hindu Parishad, the Bajrang Dal, and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, as well as their political wing, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These groups are collectively known as the Sangh Parivar. The BJP has led the national government since 1998 in coalition with regional parties (some without nationalist leanings).

The ideology of the Sangh Parivar holds that only Hindus are "real" Indians, suggesting that non-Hindus are foreigners and thus deserving of suspicion and even attack. Sangh Parivar groups argue that the previous leaders of India failed to create a nation sufficiently grounded in Hindu culture, and that Western thought, including the concept of secular government, is dangerous and detrimental to India, along with conversion to what they claim are "foreign" religions such as Islam and Christianity. Members of other religious communities are thus portrayed as foreign implants, and their patriotism and status as true Indian citizens are frequently called into question by Sangh Parivar groups.

It is hard to imagine a set of views and values less appropriate in a country that is home to one of the world's largest Muslim populations (about 120 million) and 20 million to 30 million Christians. The United States government must speak out strongly against both the increasing attacks on minorities and the ideology of hate behind them. The Indian government must also do more to root out the causes of such tragedies, especially by resolving the impasse over the Muslim Babri mosque in Ayodhya destroyed by Hindu nationalists in 1992, and where Hindu nationalists are vowing to construct a Hindu temple instead.

As the United States deepens its engagement with India, it must work with the Indian government to help foster an atmosphere of greater religious tolerance in that country.

As the Commission recommended in its May report, the U.S. government should:

-- press India to pursue perpetrators of violent acts that target members of religious groups;

- -- make clear its concern to the BJP-led government that virulent nationalist rhetoric is fueling an atmosphere in which perpetrators believe they can attack religious minorities with impunity;
- -- encourage and facilitate private-sector communication and exchanges between American and Indian religious groups and other non-governmental organizations interested in religious freedom;
- -- allocate funds from U.S. foreign-assistance programs for the promotion of education on religious toleration and inclusiveness in India;
- -- seek ways to respond positively through enhanced economic ties to Indian government efforts to protect religious freedom.

The full text of the report on India is available on the Commission's Web site at www.uscirf.gov.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was created by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to give independent recommendations to the executive branch and the Congress.

Michael K. Young, Chair \* Felice D. Gaer \* Firuz Kazemzadeh \* Richard D. Land \* Bishop William Francis Murphy \* Leila Nadya Sadat \* Nina Shea \* The Hon. Charles R. Stith \* The Hon. Shirin Tahir-Kheli \* Steven T. McFarland, Executive Director

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