



Coalition Against Genocide

Action Alert: Request AmEx to withdraw sponsorship of AAHOA Convention honoring Narendra Modi

March 10, 2005

Narendra Modi, the architect of the 2002 Gujarat pogroms in India has been invited by his supporters to be honored at the convention of the Asian American Hotel Owners association (AAHOA) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His arrival coincides with the third anniversary of the Gujarat massacres in which more than 2,000 people (most of them Muslims) were brutally killed, hundreds of women and girls were raped and sexually mutilated and over 150,000 were rendered refugees. The victims of the program continue to be persecuted in Gujarat. Furthermore, Mr. Modi is a member of a violent and chauvinistic Hindu nationalist organization called the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS – National Volunteers Corps) that has intimidated and persecuted Christians, Muslims and moderate Hindus and Mr. Modi has publicly made comments against Christians and Muslims.

The Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) is campaigning against Narendra Modi's being honored by the AAHOA in the US. Narendra Modi's crimes are being whitewashed by honoring him in a convention attended and supported by US lawmakers and celebrities. A major step in the campaign against Narendra Modi involves reminding the attendees and sponsors of the aforementioned convention that he is accused of heinous crimes against humanity.

Thanks to a concerted campaign by CAG, Chris Matthews of MSNBC's Hardball who was scheduled to give a keynote address at the convention has now withdrawn.

We are now asking YOU to contact American express, who is a sponsor of the AAHOA convention to withdraw it's support. Please contact American Express and request the company to withdraw it's support from the AAHOA convention.

ACTIONS REQUESTED

Call and/or email American Express representatives at

1- Ms Judy Tenzer - Media Spokesperson, Overseas Sponsorship

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Phone : 212-640-0555

Fax: [212-640-0332](tel:212-640-0332)

2- Christine Brandt Jones - Vice President Global Media and Sponsorship

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Phone : 212-640-5235

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3- Nancy Smith - Vice President Global Media and Sponsorship

nancy.smith@aexp.com Ms Astrid (Assistant)

Phone : 212-640-0549

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4- Mike O'Neill - Senior Vice President Public Affairs and Communications

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Send copies of correspondence to info@coalitionagainstgenocide.org

TALKING POINTS

Narendra Modi is the Chief Executive of the Gujarat State Government that was complicit in the massacres and rapes of thousands of people as documented by Amnesty International and the Indian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The Supreme Court of India's bench statement has rebuked him calling him a "modern day Nero" for his actions during the pogroms.

The 2002 Gujarat pogroms specifically targeted women and children and used sexual mutilation as an ethnic cleansing tool.

State that we understand that American Express has been misled by AAHOA. And that American Express should withdraw from the convention so as not to stand in support of massacres and persecution of minorities and for the sake of his reputation and credibility.

Mr. Chris Matthews of MSNBC Hardball has already withdrawn from the convention.

If you are an American Express Card holder please do mention it when you call American Express.