



Coalition Against Genocide

INDIAN-AMERICANS CONDEMN THE MUMBAI TERROR ATTACKS AND SEEK EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STOP TERRORISM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 28, 2008

As a broad-based coalition committed to promoting justice, peace and human rights, we denounce in strongest possible terms the dastardly terror attacks in Mumbai and demand that the highest echelons of political decision makers in India, be held accountable for what seems to be widespread and escalating trend of abject failures in protecting precious lives of ordinary citizens and preserving the pluralistic fabric of India.

We express our deepest gratitude to the thousands of security personnel for their courageous and selfless service in fighting these well-planned and coordinated attacks. We are deeply moved by still-emerging stories of the heroism and professionalism of the staffs at the affected hotels. Our hearts go out to the families of fallen heroes and the civilian victims. We also note with a sense of great pride and satisfaction, that Indian citizens have by and large maintained harmony, understanding and resolve in the face of successive acts of terrorism, thereby foiling the perpetrators' principal objective. We have no doubt that it is this unique strength of ordinary people which keeps India resilient, vibrant and united in the face of mounting internal and external challenges. We call upon all political forces in India to build upon this unique character rather than foment divisive agenda for short term gains.

We are alarmed by the reports of foreign groups being involved in the attacks. We urge the government of India to identify these foreign groups and to reassure the nation that such threats are being dealt with in an effective manner.

Recent years have witnessed an alarming growth in the number of groups committing highly orchestrated acts of terrorism and violence against innocent civilians and public institutions. As evident from this still unfolding tragedy, a coordinated and open attack on this scale by a handful of people, completely paralyzing Mumbai - India's largest city - points to major and multiple break downs across the internal and external intelligence agencies, center-state coordination on law and order, as well as political-bureaucratic-civil society continuum.

As non-resident Indians, we note how India has come to be recognized as a rising world class power as a result of successive recent governments assiduously pursuing and successfully accomplishing programs to advance the country's profile on the international stage. However, we also note with dismay and frustration that similar single minded focus and resolve seems to be lacking in successive governments, when it comes to ensuring the life, liberty and livelihood of ordinary citizens. We therefore call upon leaders across political spectrum towards a renewed sense of single minded focus on this very fundamental and basic purpose of government.

While acknowledging the complexity of the situation and concerned about frequent terrorist attacks in recent months, we feel nevertheless compelled to request Prime Minister Mr.



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Manmohan Singh to make much needed changes in the senior ranks of the government officials and the government security apparatus to ensure that the citizens and institutions of India are fully protected from acts of terrorism.

COALITION AGAINST GENOCIDE - A Coalition of Concerned Indian-Americans

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Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington, DC
American Muslim Physicians of Indian Origin (AMPI), Chicago, IL
Association of Indian Muslims in America (AIM), Washington DC; (www.AimAmerica.org)
Campaign to Stop Funding Hate (CSFH); (www.stopfundinghate.org)
Friends of South Asia (FOSA), San Jose, California; (www.friendsofsouthasia.org)
Gujarati Muslim Association of America (GMAA), Chicago, IL
India Foundation, Michigan
Indian Minorities Advocacy Network (ImanNet), New York
Indian Muslim Council (IMC), Morton Grove, Illinois (www.imc-usa.org)
Indian Muslim Education Foundation of North America (IMEFNA), Chicago, IL
Indian Muslim Relief & Charities (IMRC)
International Service Society, Michigan
Muslim Youth Awareness Alliance (MYAA), Michigan
Non-Resident Indians for a Secular and Harmonious India (NRI-SAHI), Michigan
Sikh American Heritage Organization, Wayne, IL
South Asia Forum-Madison
South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy (SANSAD), Vancouver, Canada (www.sansad.org)
Supporters of Human Rights in India (SHRI), Minnesota.
The Coalition for a Secular Democratic India (CSDI), Chicago, IL
Vaishnava Center for Enlightenment, Michigan

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