

Date: 12-08-2009

**Statement of Shri Vitthalbhai Narsukhbhai Pandya, aged about 82 years,
father of Late Haren Pandya, R/o 41, Shardakunj Society,
Near Vikasgruh, Paldi, Ahmedabad.**

I retired as a senior teacher from C.N. Vidyalaya, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad in the year 1986. I have three daughters and one son. My son Late Haren Pandya was the youngest. He had studied up to B.E. Mechanical from L.D. Engineering College, Ahmedabad in the year 1982. He joined Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) in the year 1982 as a true Hindu and had believed in equality & justice. He became a Corporator in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation in the year 1987 and remained there till 1992. He became a Member of Legislative Assembly for the first time in the year 1992 when he fought a by election from Ellisbridge Constituency, Ahmedabad. In the year 1995 he was again elected as MLA from Ellisbridge Constituency, Ahmedabad and thereafter he became a Chairman of Sankalp Samiti, Gujarat. In 1998, he was elected to Gujarat Assembly for the third time. He was appointed as Minister of State for Home of Gujarat State in the year 1998 when Shri Keshubhai Patel was the Chief Minister and remained as such till 2001. In the year 2001, Shri Narendra Modi became the Chief Minister of Gujarat State and shifted Late Haren Pandya as Minister of State for Revenue.

On 27-2-2002, after the Godhra train carnage incident, my son Late Haren Pandya had told me that Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister held a meeting of his cabinet colleagues, bureaucrats and policemen and instructed them to go soft on the kar-sevaks and Sangh Parivar's activists seeking revenge on Muslims for burning alive the kar-sevaks at Godhra in a train. My son Late Haren Pandya protested against the attitude of the Chief Minister in the meeting itself and suggested that Godhra incident should be confined to Godhra only so that the communal riots do not spread in Gujarat like wild fire. It may be mentioned here that my son Late Haren Pandya did not believe in individual worship or flattery of anyone and thus became iron piece in the eyes of arrogant Narendra Modi. My son Late Haren Pandya strongly felt that the State Govt. must appeal for restraint and peace but surprisingly some of the fundamentalists in the Govt. became the cruel agents of the well planned action of relentless massacre and even did not pay any heed to the advice

V. J. Pandya
12/8/09

of Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayee, the then Prime Minister of India. Further, my son Late Haren Pandya had told me that the honest IPS officers were demoralised and psychophant police officers were promoted who co-operated with Shri Narendra Modi in his heinous deeds after the Godhra incident. Being a committed dynamic young worker of BJP, my son Late Haren Pandya took a clear cut moral position and publically propogated that Godhra episode should not be used for spreading hatred, venom and death all over the Gujarat. He was an open fearless critic of Shri Narendra Modis' cynical politics that had made Gujarat an epicentre of communal violence, fear and hatred. My son Late Haren Pandya had also told me that a conspiracy had been hatched by Shri Narendra Modi and his close followers at the residence of one Shri Prabhatsinh Chauhan, the then MLA at his residence at Lunawada, Panch-Mahal Distt. on 27-2-2002 night and had predicted that there would be massive attacks even on the innocent Muslims in the various cities, towns and villages in Gujarat resulting into a Genocide. It may be mentioned here that on the next day i.e.28-2-2002, communal riots erupted in 16 districts out of total 26 districts of Gujarat State with the same modus operandi.

On 28-2-2002, it was my birthday and all my family members were celebrating the same at my residence situated at 41, Shardakunj society, Paldi, Ahmedabad. Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that in my Late son's constituency namely Ellisbridge, a large numbers of Muslims live. In the evening, when dinner was going on, a telephone call was received that some Hindu mobs were trying to attack with weapons on Muslim locations. My son Late Haren Pandya immediately rushed to the Muslim area, where he perceived that the situation was dangerous. He used his presence of mind and diverted the mob elsewhere. It may be mentioned here that there were absolutely no human killings in the Ellisbridge area because of the intervention of my son Late Haren Pandya. However, Shri Narendra Modi did not like the humanitarian perspective of my son Late Haren Pandya because it appears that he (Late Haren Pandya) was a serious threat/challenge to his political career.

It was sometime in the later part of 2002 that a Citizen's Tribunal comprising of Mr. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer (Retd.), Mr. Justice P.B. Sawant and others met in Ahmedabad. My son Late Haren Pandya had informed me that he had met the

V. J. Pandya
12/8/09

members of the said Tribunal of retired Judges probing the communal riots and had confirmed the meeting held by the Chief Minister on 27-2-2002, the day of Godhra carnage in which the instructions had been passed on by the CM to the bureaucrats and police officers to go soft on Sangh Parivar activists seeking revenge on Muslims on account of the Godhra incident. With a view to save the image of the Bhartiya Janta Party my son Late Haren Pandya resigned from the cabinet on 7th August, 2002 which was accepted by Shri Narendra Modi, CM. My son Late Haren Pandya had mentioned in his resignation that he was quitting the cabinet as he did not want the interest of the party to be harmed by an individual's whims and obstinacy. It may be added here that my son Late Haren Pandya had been given two options by the CM, either to tender an unconditional apology for his appearance before the Tribunal or resign but my son preferred the second choice and resigned in protest.

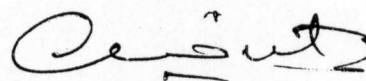
My son Late Haren Pandya was brutally murdered on 26-3-2003. At that time one of the Muslim rickshaw puller namely Shri Mohmmad in his constituency had cried bitterly and wished that he should have survived as his presence was very much needed in this world but the Allah had decided otherwise.

Lastly, it may be mentioned that being a committed dynamic young worker of BJP my son Late Haren Pandya, took a clear cut moral position and had publically propagated that Godhra episode should not be used to spread hatred death and communal riots all over the Gujarat. He was of the view that the autocratic, perverted and dictatorship attitude of Shri Narendra Modi had brought shame to the fair name of Gujarat.

Read over and admitted to be correct.

J. A. Pandya
12/8/08

Before me



(J.M. Suthar)

Dy. Superintendent of Police
Special Investigation Team
Gandhinagar