

Relief for Victims of Bomb Blasts

August 2008: The July 26 serial blasts in Ahmedabad killed 62 people while another 150 were injured. The very next morning, Teesta Setalvad and Rahul Bose visited Ahmedabad to condemn this inhuman act, to extend CJP's condolences to the family members of those who died and show solidarity with the survivors. Subsequently CJP raised Rs.1.32 lakh, which was spent in providing relief to 12 of the affected families.

CJP had similarly appealed for funds and distributed the next of kin of the victims of the bomb blasts in Mumbai (July 2006) and in Malegaon (Sept 2006).

In August 2004, CJP had intervened to ensure prompt compensation from the J&K government to the Mumbai-based Chandrakant Shah and Nirav Vakharia whose family members were killed or seriously injured in the bomb blast in a hotel in Pahalgam, Kashmir, in June 2004.

Victims of 2002 Carnage, Blasts Share Grief

By Bhadresh

Ahmedabad: They shed tears, shared their pain, angst and the colossal personal loss which had befallen them. They were the unfortunate victims of the two tragedies which hit Ahmedabad in recent times — the riot victims of 2002 and victims of the recent July 26 serial blasts. In an initiative by **Citizens for Justice & Peace (CJP)**, affected families of the two tragedies were brought together to create a bridge between the two communities. More than 20 riot victims and 40 blast victims from both the communities met to discuss their shattered lives and how to move on.

Aslam Mansoori from Bapunagar, who lost 19 of his family members in the 2002 riots was unable to control his emotions. He said, "I do not want to remember those dark days but coming here and talking to these blast victims would help us in understanding each other better."

Others, like Mansukh Doshi, 58, a blast victim felt overjoyed about this initiative. Doshi said, "What we have lost cannot come back but now we have to reconcile to our fate. These riot victims were the victims of hatred too. These small initiatives will certainly help discourage the feeling of hatred among different communities here."

About this initiative, **Teesta Setalvad** of **CJP** said, "These families from both the communities are victims of brutal violence. But the attempts to politicize the recent blast issue are scary. We need to fight the hatemongers who continue to spread the poison of communalism in the society." Another riot victim, Imtiyaz Khan who lost seven of his family members during the riots said, "Whatever happened to us was wrong. We all are humans first. We also want to fight these terrorists who kill innocent people and disrupt normal life."

"This is a symbolic start and we are hopeful that organizing these kinds of interaction will be helpful in creating a bridge between the two communities," added Setalvad. Others who were present in the meeting included Tanvir Jafri, son of slain ex-MP Ehsan Jafri, Dara Mody, whose son Azhar went missing from Gulbarg society, and retired IPS officer RB Sreekumar.

(Times of India, Ahmedabad edition, August 27, 2008)

A meeting without loud-speakers

Ahmedabad, August 26: The Quresh Hall in Shahpur played host to a unique meeting on Tuesday. It was the 30th day of the serial bomb blasts that claimed 62 lives and injured about 150 others in the city. Victims of the blasts and those of the 2002 post-Godhra riots sat together and shared their tales of woe.

The meeting was organised by **Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP)** with the aim to narrow the gap between Hindus and Muslims that had widened after the riots and subsequently with the blasts. The organisers felt that if the victims of the two tragedies were brought together, it would help dilute the tense undercurrent of communal mistrust in the state. Besides **Teesta Setalvad** of the CJP, several others were present at the meeting including Tanvir Jafri, son of the late parliamentarian Ehsan Jafri, who was brutally murdered in the Gulberg Society. Tanvir had long chats with several blast victims and asked them to patiently bear the ordeal. "The most difficult of tasks can be accomplished by love and patience. Bringing the two communities closer to each other when there is so much communal polarisation in the state is a very challenging task", Tanvir said. He appreciated the organisers, particularly Teesta, for handling such a sensitive issue. Teesta organised the programme although she was prevented from meeting the blast victims in the Civil Hospital. "Let me do my job. I don't care about what people think about me," she said in response to a question.

(The Indian Express, August 27, 2008).

CJP activities 2007-2008

September 2008

Khairlanjee Dalits' massacre case

CJP continuously monitored the Khairlanjee massacre case — in 2006, four members of a Dalit family, including two women, were brutally massacred in the village in Bhandara district, Maharashtra — offered legal advice to witnesses and helped raise funds. On September 15, a trial court convicted 8 of the accused. CJP is with the Dalit organisations who are unhappy over the fact that the court has not upheld the charges of “conspiracy”, “sexual violence” and “atrocities” as under the Atrocities Against Dalits Act which would have meant a more stringent penalty. The judge dropped charges of sexual molestation even though the bodies of the two women, mother Surekha and daughter Priyanka, were found badly mutilated.

August 2008

Compensation to victims of mass crimes

2003: The Modi government returned Rs.19.3 crore of the Rs 100 crore it had received from the NDA government towards compensation to family members of those killed in the violence. CJP filed a PIL in the Gujarat High Court saying the compensation amount was totally inadequate. The High Court authorised CJP to examine the disbursements made by the district collectors. CJP undertook a survey of 8,000 families and submitted a revised compensation package to the Gujarat High Court similar to what had been paid in the 1984 anti-Sikh carnage in Delhi.

2004: CJP submitted the same package to the PMO and the Union Home Ministry when the UPA came to power in 2004. Within a month of this, the UPA government announced a revised package: an additional Rs. 3.5 lakh for deaths (making the total to each surviving family members to Rs 5 lakh) and Rs 1.25 lakh to the injured.

2008: A new scheme submitted by the CJP before Gujarat HC on August 25, 2008 asks for death compensation for Muslims killed by police bullets in 2002 and for persons considered ‘missing’ for over 6 years; compensation to women victims of sexual violence; regularisation of lands on which relief camps have been built; issue of ‘internally displaced person’ cards to those forced to live away from their homes; low-interest loans for businessmen who suffered huge losses; minimum compensation of Rs 2 lakh for homes destroyed.

July 2008

Shiv Sena MP Madhukar Sarpotdar convicted

In sharp contrast to the 80 per cent conviction in the March 1993 serial bomb blasts case in Mumbai, in the numerous cases pertaining to the pogrom against the Mumbai's Muslims three months earlier (December 1992-'93), there was not even 0.8 per cent conviction. This shocking discrepancy was brought to light through a Right to Information application filed by CJP secretary, Teesta Setalvad.

Between August and November 2008, Teesta Setalvad was part of several delegations of agitated citizens

demanding ‘Justice for All’ in their meetings with Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh and DyCM RR Patil. Under relentless public pressure, the government agrees to reopen several cases and constitute a special court for speedy trial. In one of these cases, Madhukar Sarpotdar a senior Shiv Sena leader and MP is convicted. Sarpotdar has since appealed against his conviction.

March 2008

Criminal Conspiracy at the Highest Level

June 2006: relying on the 2,000 pages of official documents filed before the Nanavaty-Shah Commission, Smt Zakia Jafri, widow of the late Congress MP, Ehsan Jafri assisted by CJP wrote to the Gujarat DGP to register an FIR against CM Narendra Modi and 67 others (including cabinet ministers and top level IAS and IPS officers) for the pre-planned conspiracy to murder 2,500 Muslims and to subvert the delivery of justice. Needless to say the then DGP, also listed among the 67 accused (PC Pandey, Police Commissioner Ahmedabad in 2002 and now DGP Gujarat is also accused) refused to register an FIR under 154 of the CrPC.

February 2007: Smt Jafri and CJP approached the Gujarat HC for directions to the police to register an FIR. Two Judges refused to hear the matter when they saw Modi's name among the accused! Finally, after rigorous arguments before a third Judge in November 2007, the Gujarat HC dismissed the petition.

December 2007: Smt Jafri and CJP appeal before the SC.

March 3, 2008: Justices Arijit Pasayat and P Sathashivam issue notice to Modi, Gujarat Government, Central government on the matter. The Justices observed: “The case raises critical issues. What does a citizen do when the police refuses to take cognisance of an offence even after the citizen presents a wealth of evidence?” The matter is pending hearing.

March 2008

SC appoints SIT to re-investigate Gujarat massacres

Responding at last to a CJP petition filed in May 2002, the Supreme Court appoints a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by former CBI director to re-investigate major carnage cases in Gujarat in 2002, including the Godhra train burning case. Besides co-ordinating with 468 eyewitnesses to give their statements before SIT, Teesta personally appeared six times and submitted a 350-page written statement. She also made seven written complaints about repeated attempts by the Gujarat police to threaten and intimidate the eyewitnesses. Teesta has also made three written complaints about being trailed by Gujarat police in her last three visits to the state. Last week, SIT announced that it has compiled a fresh list of 100 accused (including politicians and policemen) on the basis of the testimonies of eyewitnesses. This has only been possible because of CJP's sustained pressure and the watchful eye of the Supreme Court.

February 2008

Mass graves uncovered

The remains of the victims from Ode village in Anand district (27 Muslims were killed between March 1 and 3,

2002) were unearthed from two sites in May and June this year by the Special Investigation Tribunal (SIT). SIT excavated the two sites following an application filed by the family members of those killed and CJP in February. Earlier, the local court had rejected an application to order digging. Samples have been sent for DNA sampling. Similarly, the Gujarat police had failed to act for over six years in the Gulberg Society massacre case despite the fact that 31 of the 70 dead were in the missing persons list. It was following credible information presented by CJP in the SC that SIT had to commence digging within the society ground. Here, too, remains were found in May-June and samples sent for testing.

February 2007

Former DGP, RB Sreekumar joins CJP

Former DGP Gujarat RB Sreekumar created history by filing four affidavits before the official Nanavaty-Shah (now Nanavaty-Mehta) Commission of Inquiry. These affidavits, accompanied by official annexures from the state IB that he headed in the critical period in 2002, exposed the state level conspiracy and complicity in the genocide of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002. The personal register of Sreekumar kept by him during that period documents the "illegal instructions of the chief minister" including orders to shoot Muslim 'miscreants'. For doing his constitutional duty, Sreekumar was denied promotion to DGP rank. He challenged this supersession before CAT. Thereafter the state government served a charge sheet on him for deposing and telling the truth to the Commission. Both matters came before the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). Sreekumar was left to fight his legal battle in total isolation when CJP stepped in and provided full legal assistance. He won in both cases, making history. A day before his retirement on February 28, 2007, Sreekumar was promoted to DGP rank. Soon after retirement, Sreekumar joined CJP.

2003 —

Witness protection programme

CJP's involvement in the Best Bakery and other Gujarat carnage related cases have highlighted the issues of time-bound trials, accountability of the office of the public prosecutor, a comprehensive witness protection programme. CJP was invited to make written recommendations by the Union Law Commission, and was a special invitee to the meetings of committees formed by the Union Home Ministry and the Administrative Reforms Commission to suggest a witness protection programme for India. In response to a PIL filed by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the Supreme Court too is now examining the issue, looking at existing witness protection programmes in other democracies.

2003 —

Police reform

The CJP was part of four national interventions on the ongoing police reforms issue. CJP's secretary was also summoned by the Administrative Reforms Commission and the National Police Academy to discuss threadbare the issue of overdue reforms to make our police and bureaucracy more transparent.

CJP activities 2002-2006

Feb. 2006: Best Bakery Case – CJP Vindicated

Mumbai Judge Abhay Thipsay's verdict in the Best Bakery case - life sentence for 9 of the 17 accused, clean chit to Teesta Setalvad and perjury notices to all members of the Zahira Sheikh family - are a resounding vindication of CJP's legal initiative for justice. It was CJP's and Zahira Sheikh's petition in the SC alongside the NHRC's that led to the historic judgement (April 2004) directing retrial of the case outside Gujarat. More importantly, the apex court declared its intention of keeping a constant eye on the entire process of investigation and prosecution in the lower courts to ensure justice for the survivors and victims of violence. In yet another unprecedented ruling, the apex court directed Gujarat DGP (August 2004) to review the over 2,000 incidents of violence that had earlier been closed.

Oct. 2004: Guilty cop shunted out of CBI

A petition filed by the CJP in the SC (April 2004) challenging the NDA government's mala fide promotion and transfer of former Ahmedabad Police Commissioner, PC Pandey results in the Union government shunting him out of the CBI.

Oct. 2003: Godhra victims' kin, too, come to CJP

Disillusioned with the VHP, Sabarmati Express carnage survivors, their kin, seek CJP's help (October 2003) in securing justice to them. In response to a CJP plea for reinvestigation and transfer, the Supreme Court stays the Godhra trial.

Nov. 2002: 'Modi chief author, architect of genocide'

The 3-volume report, *Crime Against Humanity*, released by the CJP-initiated Concerned Citizens Tribunal (November 2002) remains the most incisive document on the genocidal violence in Gujarat.

April 2002: Modi forced to spend crores on relief

Petition in Gujarat High Court results in the highly reluctant state government having to spend additional crores on adequate relief to 1.7 lakh destitute victims of the carnage.

To our lawyers, thank you!

CJP is extremely grateful to top notch lawyers in the country who have handled our various cases, PRO BONO, since 2002: **Mr Aspi Chinoy** (Relief camp case, Gujarat HC, 2002), **Mr. Navroze Seervai** and **Mr. Gautam Patel** (Shreekumar Case before CAT); **Mr Shanti Bhushan** and **Mr. Kapil Sibal** (BEST Bakery), **Mr Anil Divan** (CBI Inquiry and Godhra transfer petition), **Mr Harish Salve** (Transfer Petitions plus Hate Speech case), **Mr. Ram Jethmalani**, **Mr. PP Rao**, and **Mr. M.S. Ganesh** appeared for CJP in the Supreme Court. The backbone of our legal struggle has been **Mr. M.M. Tirmizee** in Gujarat High Court and **Ms. Aparna Bhatt** and **Mr. Ramesh Pukhrambam** in the Supreme Court.

JOIN US NOW!

In all, CJP is today engaged in over 50 cases from sessions courts to the Supreme Court. To handle the ever-increasing volume of work, CJP has badly needed to expand its staff and infrastructure for over two years now but has not been able to do so for lack of resources. To meet our current requirements, we need an annual budget to Rs. 50 lakh.

We are grateful to all those who have responded promptly to our appeals in the past and became members of 'Friends of CJP'. We urge you, too, to fill in the "Response Form" accompanying this newsletter, become a member of 'Friends of CJP' and help CJP realise the dream of becoming an organisation of citizens, financed entirely by citizens.

We promise to keep you regularly informed about the CJP's activities through this newsletter.

For any further information, comments, suggestions, please write to Javed Anand on the address below, send an email (javedanand@gmail.com, cjpinidia@gmail.com), SMS or call on the landline numbers given below or his mobile (**09870402556**). We look forward to regular feedback from you.

CJP WEBSITE

For detailed information on CJP's activities till date, the entire report, *Crime Against Humanity*, of the Concerned Citizens Tribunal set up by us and regular updates, please visit our website: <http://www.sabrang.com> or www.cjponline.org

We mourn the sad demise of our
Founding President, Mr. Vijay Tendulkar,
on May 19, 2008

Founding Members/Trustees, CJP:

Alyque Padamsee, (Communications/Advertising/Theatre)
Anil Dharkar, (Columnist, Writer)
Arvind Krishnaswamy, *Treasurer* (Corporate Executive)
Cyrus Guzder, (CMD, AFL)
Fr. Cedric Prakash, (Human rights activist)
Gulam Mohammed Peshimam, (Businessman)
Iftikhar M. Kadri, *Vice-President* (Senior Architect)
Javed Akhtar, (Poet, Lyricist)
Javed Anand, (*Communalism Combat*)
Nandan Maluste, (Corporate Executive)
Rahul Bose, (Actor, Social Activist)
RB Sreekumar, (Retired DGP, Gujarat)
Teesta Setalvad, *Secretary* (*Communalism Combat*)

DONATIONS

Citizens For Justice & Peace is a Trust registered under The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 with Registration No. F-25826/(Mumbai).

Donations to Citizens For Justice & Peace are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

CJP is now registered under the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act, 1976.

Cheques and DDs should favour "**Citizens for Justice and Peace**" and posted at our address given below.

Online Donations: visit www.cjponline.org

BREAK-UP OF EXPENDITURE ON OBJECTS OF THE TRUST:

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Tribunal Expenses	8,71,220.30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Legal Aid Expenses	8,24,379.11	18,76,128.00	23,39,178.54	21,75,577.01	24,17,776.04
Rehabilitation	2,26,161.00	2,21,623.50	Nil	11,97,554.05	13,05,601.00
Medical Relief	21,378.00	7,000.00	Nil	Nil	Nil
Educational Assistance	1,66,850.00	20,079.00	41,522.00	9,750.00	Nil
Total Exps. On Objects	21,09,988.41	21,24,830.50	23,80,700.54	33,82,881.06	37,23,377.04

BREAK-UP OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE:

Expenditure On Objects	21,09,988.41	21,24,830.50	23,80,700.54	33,82,881.06	37,23,377.04
Establishment Expenditure	91,495.83	57,743.55	80,325.47	2,06,907.05	2,62,417.78
Audit Fees/Contribution	52,317.00	18,427.00	41,540.00	39,081.00	94,308.00
Depreciation	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,851.00	4,063.20
Surplus During Year	50,284.76	Deficit	34,046.01	5,69,651.94	5,34,589.98
Total Exps. During Year	23,04,086.00	22,01,001.50	25,36,612.02	42,01,372.05	46,18,756.00

From the *audited* accounts of CJP for the years ended March 31, 2003-2007. Our auditors: Haribhakti & Co., Mumbai.