

# Tehelka stings politicians, criminals in Godhra case

## Shocking realities about Godhara riots disclosed by Tehelka spycam videos

ITIKA SHARMA

This is the breakdown of the judiciary, police, civil society, all parties..." is what Shoma Chatterjee, Feature Editor, Tehelka, said in an interview to Headlines Today. This was about the 'free, fair and fearless' reality about the 2002, Sabarmati Express incident and the Gujarat riots that followed it.

Tehelka, a magazine well known for sting operations and bringing out shocking realities behind what appears at the surface, churned out yet another cyclone.

In the tapes that Tehelka disclosed on October 26, 2007, there are statements and comments from various people directly involved in the riots. While some Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal workers confess being involved with supplying weapons others describe how the police and the (then) Chief Minister, Narendra Modi joined hands and supported the killing of Muslims at the hands of sangh workers.

Ashish Khetan, the Tehelka reporter who executed this sting worked intensively for over six months, risking his life



Tehelka releases sting videos on Gujarat riots

by Debi Prasad

and brought out the truth that had never been seen or heard before. In his reporter's diary on the Tehelka website (www.tehelka.com) he spots various incidents where he was at great risk but still got over 50 hours of footage on his "hid-

den cameras".

The footages have shocking exposures of top Bajrang Dal, VHP and BJP leaders openly and proudly accepting what they did and justifying their actions.

Babu Bajrangji, senior Bajrang Dal leaders admits, "we organized everything that night itself..." He has further explained in details about how the entire episode was carried out. He has talked about killing Muslims brutally with gas cylinders, petrol, diesel, etc.

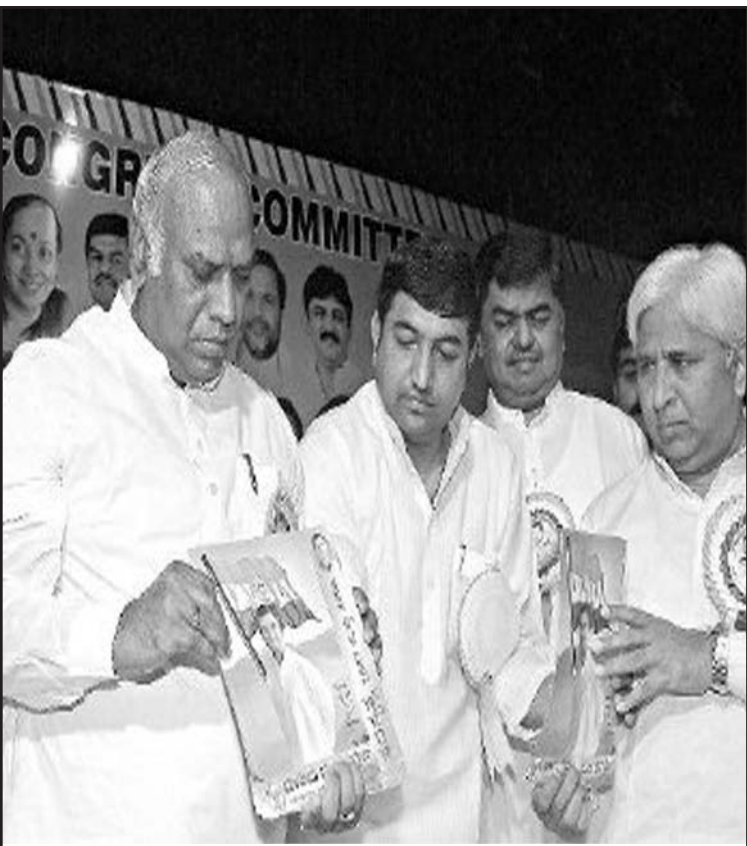
Rajendra Vyas, VHP leader has made similar confessions. He says, "I said the Muslims have given us one-day target of 60. We have to play a test match and kill 600". He says that whatever he did was to revenge whatever the Muslims had been doing in the previous regime "when congress was in power".

Various activists who appear on the tapes have time and again highlighted Narendra Modi's role in the entire incident. Rajendra Vyas confessed that Modi "gave us a free run to do what we wanted since we were already fed up with the Muslims."

Gujarat has been through a lot of upheaval and many communal riots. But a tragedy and disaster of this magnitude comes as an alarm to the entire nations. Though the courts still refuse to accept spy cam videos as evidence, it is high time stern action is taken against incident, and deliver a speedy justice to the victims.

## Congress woos youth for election campaign

### Congress seeks infusion of young blood to the party, post Urban Local Body Elections



KPCCC President Mallikarjun Kharge inaugurating youth membership drive in Bangalore

Courtesy Google Images

ANIL DAS

Enrollment of youth in the Congress party in Karnataka is falling. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President Mallikarjun Kharge has said that the neglecting youth has cost the party dearly in the recently concluded Urban Local Body elections, especially in Mangalore, Udupi, Davangere and Bellary. According to Kharge, the youth support for BJP has made them get good results in the elections.

The youth Congress has taken up an initiative to boost the party by organizing youth membership drive at various levels of the state, said Sadananda Dangannavar. They are visiting all the taluk level offices and are planning training camps to showcase and inculcate

the ideology and discipline of the Congress party. This would build the party and give a fresh insight to youth to gear up for 2009 assembly election.

Since the political climate is very unstable, the Janatha Party foresees an election, according to party youth President Aravind Dalwai. In preparation, they have decided to hold youth enrollment drive at villages called Membership Registration Scheme. This will get party workers at grass root levels at a time when village level enrollment is not well organized, he said. At the city level, they plan to call a meeting with block presidents and work together with them in confidence.

B.J.P Youth president Girish Mattanevar was unavailable for comment.

## Public will lose faith in coalition governments

POOJA GAUTAM

Which one is better? Single or coalition government. It is a well-debated topic for our country. Single party government is synonym to political stability. Coalition on the other hand, clearly shows the lack of trust, in people for different parties. It is an apparent indication, of mistrust in any party by the people. Directly doubting the efficiency and integrity of the parties.

Single party rule suggests, the reliance of the masses on the leaders of that party. The fact that people do believe, that here at last is a party and a party representative who will understand their problems and address them in a justified way. It also means that the decision making process will now be brisk. Also for an outsider, single party rule is an assurance of a sort, that this country has found itself a leader, who is charismatic enough

than 30 years. In these years we have seen a khalistan happening, Prime Ministers getting caught in an arms-deal scandal, an emergency being imposed on us, our soldiers getting killed in a war in Sri Lanka, etc etc.

Coalition government is a symbol of instability. The trend of having coalition government in India, started after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. In a country like India this is nothing short of a blessing. Those who are unsure about their hold on power, are less likely to misuse it. One clean party in a coalition, helps keep a check on the other parties. One of the standard arguments against coalitions is that they can be held hostage to the whims of small groups. As a result, they don't always serve the best interests of the majority. Of course as a majority it is very unlikely, that all their demands will be ruled out. But here again at least the majority

coming in as never before. There's no denying that coalitions are slow-moving beasts, needing to hammer out a consensus on every little decision. Sometimes, in the interest of keeping all parties moving in the same direction, they are obliged to take half-steps instead of full strides. Nuclear-deal being an example here.

The recent political upheaval in Karnataka is a perfect example of how things can turn bad in a coalition government. When Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal Secular (JDS) formed a coalition government in the state, they decided that the leaders of each of the two parties would be chief ministers for 20 months. But when the first 20 months got over, HD Kumaraswamy refused to accept the power transfer leading to a major political crisis. Though after a long battle, the political situation in Karnataka seems to have settled, there are still doubts about peaceful



Ministers of UPA government with AICC president Sonia Gandhi's residence in New Delhi

Courtesy rediff

to get the support of the masses and is therefore a true representative of them. In short a symbol of steadiness.

However the government rule, under leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi have proved, this theory to be wrong. Out of 62 years of independence, India has been under a single party rule for more

does not get to flatten the minority. Finally, there is the matter of economic management. Are multi-party governments inherently incapable of doing this job right? Look at India in the UPA regime. We see our stock exchange booming everyday and touching new heights. The GDP growth rate is increasing. Foreign investments

functioning of a coalition government.

In a country like India, with different languages, religions, castes, it is best to have a coalition government that represents everybody's interests. At the end of the day as the constitution says, the government has to be of the people, by the people, for the people.