

For Hindutva, violence is a sacred way...

Dr. Jilukara Sreenivas

International community is looking at India where Dalits and Muslims are being attacked, killed and paraded nakedly. American parliamentarians have written a letter to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to take appropriate actions against the culprits who indulged in violence against Dalits and Muslims. Freedom of living and freedom of religion is their concern. American politicians have a keen interest in the security of common man in India. I have many critical objections towards their response, but their concern is genuine. Indian Brahman intellectuals have shamelessly criticized the American parliamentarians. Balbeer Punj, an ideologue of Hindutva, blatantly refused American response with regard to attacks on Dalits and Muslims. His point is that America has no moral right to talk about the Dalits and Muslims security in India because Afro-Americans are killed by white policemen and are treated as sub humans. Balbeer Punj is representing the views of casteist people. Hindutva minded people say Dalits are safe and they are constitutionally protected. They always try to overlook the heinous attacks and insults; many of them defend violence. So, violence should be understood from communal perspective.

Violence in Brahmanism (in political terms Hindutva) is considered as sacred. Violence is acceptable for Hindutva to maintain the social order which is based on caste. Manusmriti suggests various forms of violence to control the Shudras, Chandalas, and Women. Crime is defined by Hindutva ideology and punishment is declared by manusmriti. Entire Brahman literature profoundly legitimized beating up, killing and cutting different organs of the body for protecting caste laws. Dalits, according to the Hindutva ideology should not be allowed into the village and untouchables. Heinous occupations are given for them. Disposing off the dead animals and beating drums on the different occasions for the dominant castes are assigned to Dalits. For the thousands of years, Dalits are sub-humanized and de-culturized. After continuous struggle, colonial rule allowed them to enter into the parliamentary democracy. Babasaheb Ambedkar sacrificed a lot for achieving legal and constitutional rights in the parliamentary democratic structure. Even after six decades of implementation of Indian constitution, violence still remains a social reality.

BJP occupied the power at center and in many states of India through violence. Its mother organization RSS and allied frontal organs have implemented conspiratorial strategies to provoke the riots and violence which polarized the masses on the lines of religion. They spread hatred in the name of spirituality and disseminated the false science of cow as a sacred animal. Propaganda of Hindutva fascist ideology is not at cropping stage. It badly affected the social and human relations among the different caste groups and communities. Dalits and Muslims are vulnerable victims.

Killings of Muslims in Assam continued for two years. Lakhs of Muslims have run away from Assam. Nobody knows how many people were killed by Saffron goons. Assam was followed by Muzzaffar Nagar of Uttar Pradesh. Muslim cleansing continued for months together in the Samajwadi Party rule. Muslim women were raped and hanged to death. Their property was damaged and were thrown out of their lands. Same violent forms are applied to Dalits in Rajasthan and UP. Entire Dalit family in Rajasthan was crushed under the tractor's wheels by Upper Castes. A Dalit family was beaten up by police and paraded nakedly in the public. Beef festivals are vandalized. In protest against all these attacks many beef festivals were organized across the country. Many attacks took place in the name of Cow protection by Hindutva organs. In this series, Dalit men were brutally attacked publicly in Una. Culprits have made the videos and uploaded on internet. The video attracted a mass protest across the country. Gujarat Dalits revolted violently. They started Asmitha Yatra and whole movement gave a birth to Jignesh Mevani, a journalist and activist. Dalits have walked hundreds of kilometers from Ahmedabad to Una. It is historical in the land of Hindutva forces. A leader of BJP made disgusting comments about Mayawati. Caste question again occupied a central position in the national debate.

Mayawati raised the issues in the Parliament. All the oppositional parties seriously indulged in the debate over attacks on Dalits and Muslims. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not speak a word in the house. A week before a grand meeting in Una, he opened his mouth in Hyderabad. He delivered a sort of filmi dialogues about Dalits. He aimed his speech at Dalit movement which was going on in Gujarat. He did not reach his objective. Dalits continued to rally against attacks and pledged that they are giving up the traditional occupation. Meeting was a grand success which was attacked again by RSS goons while attendants were going back home.

Jignesh Mewani has done a great job in this regard. But his apolitical strategies are not useful. He received a huge support from all the quarters. Communists, Congressmen and many other political organizations have extended their support to the Una Dalits. His words never carried a political message. He has never shown concern for Bahujan Samaj politics. His cultural articulations produced an enthusiasm among masses. He demanded land and alternative livelihoods steps from the Gujarat government and he served an ultimatum saying demands must be fulfilled in a time of one month. This is suicidal in my view. If government fulfilled all the demands, what happens? Government will be successful in attracting the Dalits appreciation. He was unable to build solidarity with BCs and STs. Muslims from the beginning were with the Dalits' movement and participated in a large number. Apart from these two social groups, entire Gujarat has stood against Dalits. It shows how Hindutva ideology is operating in the minds of people.

Unless Dalit Muslim politics represent in the legislature houses, assassinations will not stop. You can protect yourself only after defeating Hindutva fascists in the electoral politics. Dalit Muslim unity should realize this.

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