**Civil Liberties Monitoring Committee. India**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ten years of Makkah Masjid bomb blast and subsequent police firing**

**Justice denied to the victims**

**State is protecting the criminals of bomb blast and police firing**

Civil Liberties Monitoring Committee express its deep grief on the occasion of ten years of Makkah Masjid bomb blast and subsequent police firing in which many people lost their lives and more than hundred people injured. It is a matter of grave concern that till date victims could not get justice and the criminals of blast and police firing are roaming freely with impunity. The investigative agencies of Indian government are not serious and sincere enough about the investigation of this incident and have lost interest to bring criminals under justice. The way which these investigative agencies are working clearly reflects that they are working under the pressure of Hindutva government where in it has now become the official policy of the government to go soft on the Hindutva terrorists.

After the RSS ruled government came into power, the investigative agencies have given clean chit to the Hindutva terrorists who were in jail under the charges of bomb blasts and terrorism. It is very alarming that the investigative agencies itself is submitting appeals in the courts for the discharge of Hindutva terrorists to release them and the courts are admitting such appeals and passing favorable orders. It is nothing but mockery of justice.

It is to remind that on 18th May 2007, during the time of Friday prayers, Hindutva terrorists exploded bombs in the historical Makkah Masjid where ten thousand people were offering Friday prayers. Immediately after these blasts, police opened indiscriminate firing on the people those who were helping the bomb blast victims and on those who had come to search for their relatives. Within five minutes of the bomb blast and police firing, the Telugu electronic media started scrolling on their channels blaming Muslim youth responsible for the blasts. Due to such unexpected situations, Muslim masses came under shock and at this high moment Muslim leadership completely failed to tackle the situation and to combat the state sponsored propaganda as well as to demand justice. Hundreds of Muslim youth were picked up, illegally detained, tortured, humiliated and later more than 30 were shown arrested under bogus conspiracy cases.

After the arrest of Swami Assemanand and his confessional statement in the court of law, it was proved that the Hindutva terrorists were targeting Muslims and the atmosphere was created in such a manner that the blame of carrying out bomb blasts falls on Muslims instead of the Hindutva terrorists. It is very unfortunate that the local media played an ugly role in demonizing Muslim community. At the same time when the real terrorists were exposed, the same media was silent and whatever little news was published about them, it was very soft and reported somewhere in the inside pages in small fonts.

On this 18th May 2017, it is completion of ten years of Makkah Masjid bomb blast and subsequent police firing. It was three sided terror attack on Muslim community, one is bomb blasts, second is police firing and third is media propaganda against Muslim community. Still Muslims have not overcome from this shock and suffering. These three simultaneous terror attacks are still fresh in their minds. They strongly believe that the government did not take any appropriate measures to provide justice to them.

After the Modi government coming into power at the centre, the attitude of NIA has changed completely. The investigative agency is not serious and sincere in investigating the case, during the court trail the witnesses are turning hostile, the prosecution is not professionally contesting the bails seriously due to which the accused are getting bail easily and now it seems that all the Hindutva terrorists would be acquitted very soon due to soft corner of prosecution. The Prosecution has till now failed to established witnesses testimony in the court and now there is a genuine concern looming large over the possibility of NIA consciously sidelining crucial material evidence during the trail to facilitate the acquittals of Hindutva terrorist and if this current state of affairs continues then citizens will lose confidence from the investigating agencies and judiciary.

After 10 years of Makkah Masjid bomb blast, it is a big secret as to who were the local Hindutva terrorists who provided logistical support in planning and carrying out blasts! It is also a mystery till now as to why the police opened the fire on the innocent people at Makkah Masjid who were already victims of the blast? Why the media blamed the Muslims immediately after the blasts without any proof by giving the references of police sources? All this has to be still disclosed by the investigative agencies. Overall it is a greater conspiracy to target the Muslim identity, to defame and demoralize the Muslim community.

This committee demands the government of India to investigate Makkah Masjid bomb blast case in free and fair manner and provide justice. It is the responsibility of the NIA to take this case seriously as it has taken up other blast cases and conducted trial in fast track court and brought criminals of blast under justice. This committee demands the state government of Telangana to expose the Hindutva terrorists who extended logistic support for the blasts and to take appropriate action against them to stop further attacks on Muslim community.

Lateef Mohammed Khan

Gen. Secretary