

A POGROM IN MAKING

And its aftermath...

A PHOTO ESSAY SERIES
(PART 1)



PHOTOGRAPHS & CAPTIONS BY
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PHOTO ESSAY

A pogrom is distinct from a general sectarian riot because it involves the targeting of a particular minority group and a certain degree of complicity of the state.

The culmination of the period of unrest during the anti-CAA protests was a brutal pogrom that started in North-east Delhi on February 23, 2020. An analysis of the data on death toll reveals that there is a clear religious disparity in the people who died in the pogrom. Nearly 51 people lost their lives, out of which only 13 were Hindu and 38 were Muslim.

The events were set in motion when Kapil Mishra, a BJP leader who had just lost his seat from Model Town in Delhi assembly elections, sparked the violence by inciting a Hindu mob to violently remove a group of Muslims who were blocking a road in north-east Delhi in protest against the CAA.

Addressing the peaceful protest, Mishra issued inflammatory remarks to attack Muslims which resulted in a massive eruption of violence, and arson. The pogrom spanned over four days with the Delhi police seen complicit in the violence witnessed.

During the pogrom, Muslim-owned businesses and property were set ablaze, their shops were demolished and many Muslims were killed while others were beaten up by Hindu mobs.

The fact finding reports submitted by the Delhi Police to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) termed anti-CAA protestors as 'anti-Hindu' and 'Left-jihadi' elements who were conspiring to create unrest and resentment. The police displayed gross negligence in putting a halt to the violence. Let alone controlling the violence, the police allowed CAA supporters to hold a counter protest very close to the anti-CAA protest site and overlooked Kapil Mishra's inflammatory speech.

There are numerous accounts of people calling the Police for help when goons were trying to break into their houses or beat their family members, but the police remained a silent onlooker to the pogrom. Additionally, the violence could have been avoided or controlled if the Rapid Action Force was deployed when violence broke.

Now, about 7 months after the pogrom started, the Muslims of Seelampur, Jaffrabad and other localities in Delhi are still reeling with the shocks of the dark days in February.

PRAYERS OF

Peace



Delhi, India- A road leads to Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi on September 21, 2020



Damaged Roof of Mubarak Masjid at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi on September 21, 2020



A burnt 3-storey house at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi



A burnt Cupboard in a 3-storey house at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi
on September 21, 2020



A man offers "Namaz" at Mubarak Masjid at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi on September 21, 2020



Children chat outside their residence in Shiv Vihar (Phase-7) in North East Delhi



Mohammed Shamshad (44) with his wife, Sannu Begam, in an under-construction house at Shiv Vihar (Phase-7) in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



Riswana Parveen (L) along with her husband Mohammed Hussain (R) pose in front of their house at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi



Mohammed Hussain shows images of damaged house at Old Garhi Mendu village



Riswana Parveen, shows image of a burnt car used to transports Eggs by her husband at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi



Mohammed Mumtaz (27), shows photos of a burnt car and damaged houses in a mobile phone at Bhajanpura Extension



Delhi, India- Mohammed Mumtaz (27), shows photos of burnt car and damaged houses in a mobile phone at Bhajanpura Extension in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



Workers repair a damaged house floor in Bhajanpura Extension in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



A damaged house at Bhajanpura Extension in North East Delhi



Ruksana (R) along with here family in an under-construction house in Shiv Vihar (Phase-7) in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



Delhi, India- Ruksar (L) with her Mother-In-Law Noorjahan (R) stand in front of under-construction house at Old Garhi Mendu village, Shahdara in Northeast Delhi on September 21, 2020



Muslims pray in a renovated Masjid at Bhajanpura Extension in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



Muslims pray in a renovated Masjid at Bhajanpura Extension



Re-construction of a damaged home at Bhajanpura Extension in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020



Re-construction of a damaged home at Bhajanpura Extension



Asif (63) with his daughter Albina Saikia (14) at their residence in Shiv Vihar (Phase-7) in North East Delhi on September 22, 2020

The Pogrom targeting Muslims, the discriminatory laws against minorities, and the raging Islamophobia are all glaring symbols of the rising *Hindutva* Nationalism in India. The casualties in a bloody path to *Hindutva Raj* are costing the nation greatly; the price of which is being paid in property, lives and above all, the founding constitutional principles that shaped the Indian Republic.



PAIGAM (People's Association In Grassroots Action and Movement) is an aggregator of activists, researchers, practitioners and organisations that aims to bring together social efforts at the local, national and global levels through media advocacy and action research.

They wish to bring a seamless bridge between academia, activism, policy and public through our media, advocacy, research, grassroots fellowship and mobilization channels.

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