

MUSLIMS REGARDED AS TERRORISTS IN INDIA: A STUDY OF MOHD AMIR KHAN'S FRAMED AS A TERRORIST

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ABSTRACT

Literature is an expression of the most intimate consciousness of life and society in which it grows and develops. Literature projects the ills of society with a view of improving the society. It expresses thoughts, feelings, and emotions in rational manner. In India Muslims are being looked as a distrustful people and symbolized as terrorists. This paper is based on a story of an ordinary Muslim man from Delhi who was accused of being a terrorist and involved in eighteen bomb blast cases. Though it took police only two months to frame him as terrorist, it took Amir fourteen years to prove his innocence. He was tortured mentally as well as physically for being a Muslim and regarded as dangerous terrorist.

Key words: India, Literature, Muslims, Oppression, Terrorists.

I. INTRODUCTION

The British ruled India upto 1947 and they divided their subjects so that they can rule without any challenge to their colonial power. Partition resulted in human massacre and the innocent Muslims continue to pay heavy price for creation of Pakistan. After Independence Muslims are suppressed and oppressed in India. The Muslims constitute India's largest minority. Although India claims to be a secular country yet Muslims continue to be victims of violence. There are many stereotypes about Muslims in India. Muslim stereotypes are perpetuated in every form of media and such misinformation often lead to discrimination and violence against Muslims. It is widely held that Muslims are socially and economically backward. The word "Terrorist" is glued to Muslims. India film industry presents Muslims as terrorists, disloyal, criminals and negative ones.

II. REVIEW OF NOVEL

Muslims are victims of violence and are framed in false cases of terrorism. One story of framing in false case of terrorism is narrated by Mohd Amir Khan along with Nandita Haskar, a human rights lawyer and activist in his memoir "Framed as a Terrorist". Amir like other ordinary man had dreamt of happy future but all his dreams were shattered when he was accused of being of being a terrorist and involved in eighteen bomb blast cases and linked with Pakistani Militants for which he was imprisoned for fourteen years. While it took police only two months to frame him as a terrorist but it took Amir more than fourteen years to prove his innocence. He remained in prison for fourteen years. Amir was kidnapped by police in 1998 when he was fourteen years old

and was released in year 2012. He remembers how he was tortured, subject to anti-Muslim abuse and threats to frame his parents. The only freedom that Amir finds in jail was that he was able to scream and cry. Amir used to see his parents who suffer outside. The police used to harass them and they were called parents of a terrorist. He was tortured and no judge asks him about the torture, nor do doctors record his torture wounds. Amir also talks about other Muslims in his book who were framed in many cases of terrorism and one among them was Mr. Shakeel who due to frustration committed suicide. Innocent Muslims are picked and framed in false cases. Aftermath the incident of 9/11 attack On Twin Towers in New York Muslims were more subjected to violence. Amir says that jailers started to humiliate Muslim Prisoners after this incident and he himself says that “I was considered a dangerous terrorist”. These fourteen years stole Mohd Amir khan’s youth. Amir was beaten, petrol was poured into his private parts and he was made to drink water mixed with detergent and sometimes given electric shocks. He was made to lie down on the ground and heavy metal pipes were rolled over his body. He provides account of how he was tortured mercilessly and made to sign blank papers. When he returned back his own world was ruined. His father lay buried in an unknown grave and his mother was paralyzed. The government hasn’t taken any action against the police officers responsible for his false implication. His book is memoir of his lost youth. Amir khan involved in a terror case echoes the story of hundreds of Muslim men as terrorists. Amir in an interview says “khaki scares me” and “I have nightmares of police vans chasing me”. Thus it is quite obvious that police which is meant for safety of people frightens Amir. He also says that “For Indian Muslims, India is their country by choice – i am grateful to my ancestors for making that choice”. It is quite clear that Amir still loves his country very much that did nothing for giving him justice. Such a patriotic Muslims are considered terrorists in our country. Amir ends his memoir by saying “Sometimes I do wish I could leave India, my country and settle somewhere safe. But I wonder where that place is”. From this quote of Amir it is quite clear that he doesn’t find himself safe anywhere in this world. This is not the case of Amir only but it is case of almost all Muslims in India. Muslims are considered terrorists worldwide.

III.CONCLUSION

There are thousands of Muslim men like Amir who are framed as terrorists, still in jail, subjected to torture without any legal representation. When a Muslim man is arrested in connection with terror case, he is deemed guilty forever. At present in India Muslims are passing through what may justly be described as highly testing times. They are confronted with scores of problems and difficulties. They are questioned for patriotism. One is the assumption that Muslims are terrorists and second is that they are not loyal to India. These two concepts which are deep rooted in the minds of Hindus are at play. Sociological and criminological research has long demonstrated that Muslims have been treated as ‘other’ in India within the criminal justice system. According to Hudson, Muslims are subjected to police surveillance, criminal justice interventions, Penal sanctions and suffer differential forms of sentencing. Hudson says that the identification of young male Muslims as a risky group hassled to specific incursions in terms of counter-terrorism of surveillance and intelligence gathering. This said, it should be pointed out that discrimination against Muslim minority groups is historically embedded and manifested in myriad forms. The constant connection of Muslims with terrorism was a source of common indignation. As Zaidin Sardar (2002) argues, after 9/11, media representations of Muslims became more

extreme, with Muslims commonly designated as either ‘terrorists’ or ‘apologists’. Insecurity runs very deeply in the Muslim minds in India. Muslims outside India are also considered terrorists. According to the FBI, 94% of terrorist attacks carried out in the United States from 1980 to 2005 have been by non-Muslims but still the word ‘terrorist’ is glued to Muslims. The actual fact is that there is lack of understanding about Muslims not only in India but in whole world. The increase in anti-Muslim rhetoric and the unfortunate conflation of terrorism with Muslim people contributes to biased attitude and reinforces stereotypes. As a result, Islamophobia- the fear, hatred and discrimination of Muslim people is manifesting itself in personal biases, rhetoric, education, politics, hate, crimes and more. The Muslim community in India does not commit terrorist attacks. Terrorists do not come from Indian Muslim community. The Indian Muslim community has legitimate grievances and their problem is how to adapt its reaction in political way because that is a political issue. The Indian Muslims try to avoid being trapped in the conflict between Indian and Pakistan. Islam is one of the religion that has fought terrorism, rejected it and called for peace and love.

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