



First Annual Convention

India after Gujarat: Democracy or Religious Fanaticism?

A day long event about the aftermath of the Gujarat pogrom and the alarming increase in religious fanaticism across India, threatening the tolerant, pluralistic and democratic foundations of the country.

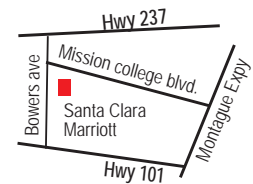
Saturday June 28, 2003. 10:00 AM

Santa Clara Marriott

California Ball Room

2700 Mission college boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95054

[www • imc-usa • org/convention](http://www.imc-usa.org/convention)



Listen: To leading luminaries and the best minds in journalism, research and academia.

Participate: In interactive workshops. Discuss ways and means to end the communal menace in India.

Explore: The exhibition and stalls.

Registration \$30.00 per person.

Includes day long sessions, workshops and banquet dinner, which is the highlight of the convention. Early Registration ends June 21, 2003. Call (516) 567-0783 for more details. Register at: <http://www.imc-usa.org/convention>.

Confirmed Speakers

Fr. Cedric Prakash, A moral voice of great stature. Leader of Christian Forum for Human Rights.
 Praful Bidwai, One of the most widely read journalists in India. Former senior editor of The Times of India.
 Smita Narula, Senior researcher for the Asia Division of the international organization of the US based Human Rights Watch. Author of a number of Human Rights Watch publications, including the 'Human Rights Watch report on the Gujarat violence'.
 Dr. Lise McKean, Dy. Dir., Center for Impact Research. Author of 'Divine Enterprise: Gurus and the Hindu Nationalist Movement'.
 Dr. K.P. Singh, Convener International Association for the Advancement of Dalit people.
 Dr. Angana Chatterji, Associate Professor of Anthropology, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco.
 Prof. Raka Ray, Associate Professor of Sociology and South and Southeast Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley.
 Imam Khalid Griggs, Civil Rights Leader and Imam of the community mosque in Winston, Salem N.C.
 Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqui, President, International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)
 Dr. Omar Afzal, PhD. Cornell University, Former editor of a number of Islamic publications.
 Dr. Shaik Ubaid, Founding President of Indian Muslim Council-USA and IMANNET.
 Ananta Krishna, Journalist and Human Rights Activist. Member of 'Stop Funding Hate' campaign.
 Manzoor Ghori, Founder and Chairman, Indian Muslim Relief Committee.
 Prof. Hari Sharma, President of INSAF (International South Asian Forum) and SANSAD (South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy)
 Asim Ghafoor, Founder and Managing Director of Washington, D.C. based AG Consulting Group. (NRI)
 Dr. Rahul Deepankar, President, Indian Buddhist Association of America and New Republic of India
 Raju Rajagopal, Executive member of Indians For Collective Action (ICA), Informal advisor to the American India Foundation (AIF) and member of Coalition against Communalism (CAC)
 Nishrin Hussain, daughter of the former MP of Gujarat, Ahsan Jafri, who was brutally massacred in Gujarat.
 Dr. Satchit Balsari, Physician and Humanitarian worker by training, Founding Director of Professionals for Human Security.
Leaders and representatives of Hindu, Sikh, Dalit, Christian and Muslim communities.

* Indian Muslim Council-USA (IMC-USA) is a Washington based advocacy group working toward safeguarding Indian society's pluralist and tolerant ethos. IMC-USA was established on August 15th, 2002 in the wake of the Gujarat carnage.



SCHEDULE* - June 28th, 2003

Inaugural Session - 9:00 to 9:55 AM
Imam Tahir Anwar (SBIA)
Razi Mohiuddin (Welcome address)
Khaleel Rahman (Inaugural Remarks)
Mirza Baig (House keeping)

India After Gujarat - 9:55 to 10:55 AM
Dr. Satchit Balsari
Nishrin Hussain
Bhashwati Sengupta
Manzoor Ghori

Problems & Solutions - 11 to 12 :30 PM
Anant Krishna
Prof. Hari Sharma
Dr. Angana Chaterjee
Prof. Raka Ray
Dr. Aslam Abdullah

Lunch Activities - 12:30 to 2:30 PM
(Lunch on your own)
Audience Speak - 1:15 to 2:15

Experiences in Multi-Culturalism - 2:30 to 4:15 PM
Dr. Omar Afzal
P D John
Kulmit Singh
Dr. K. P. Singh
Raju Rajagopal
Dr. Rahul Deepankar

Break - 4:05 to 4:15 PM

Coming to Democracy's Aid - 4:15 to 6:00 PM
Smita Narula
Khalid Griggs
Dr. Ahmadullah Siddiqui
Asim Ghafoor
Dr. Lise McKean

Q & A for Panelists - 6:00 to 6 :45 PM

Banquet 7:00 - 8:35 PM
Awards Presentation
Jameel Johnson
Fr. Cedric Prakash

Key Note Session 8:45 to 9:45 PM
Praful Bidwai
Shaik Ubaid (Presidential address)
Vote of Thanks
Closing Prayer

Poetry Recital 9:45 to 10:30

* Tentative. For updated schedule and speaker bio's, please visit the convention website.

WHY ATTEND?

The rise of religious fanaticism poses an immediate danger to millions of Indians and will have drastic effects on world peace. To counter this trend the only way is to: Organize, Increase awareness of the danger posed by religious fanaticism to India's democracy, secularism, pluralism and religious minorities and its global implications and Form effective coalitions with groups representing India's different religions, ethnic minorities and US-based human rights organizations.

The IMC convention will do all of the above. Ever since its launch IMC-USA has given high priority to working with close cooperation with individuals and groups who are concerned about Human Rights and are committed to preserving the pluralistic and democratic nature of India.

This is the first time that Indians of all religious affiliations and political orientation will have assembled together in the US. This in itself is a towering and crucial achievement and will go a long way towards building an effective coalition.

The convention will also provide a forum for concerned individuals and groups to gather together, share ideas, reflect on the latest policies and research on issues related to communalism in India. Representatives of various religious constituents, researchers, business leaders and academic experts will analyze and offer solutions to this grave and imminent danger.

We hope you will be able to attend and contribute in the efforts for peace and justice.

YOU CAN HELP

On June 28th, 2003 hundreds of IMC volunteers, activists and other groups will gather in Santa Clara, CA for IMC's first annual convention, where they will strengthen their bonds, gain new knowledge through workshops and listen to top notch speakers. Help us spread the word. You can:

1. Make copies of this flyer and distribute it to concerned individuals.
2. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers who might be interested.
3. Volunteer for IMC-USA

For more information, please e-mail: program@imc-usa.org or call (408) 980 9130 or visit the convention website.

India after Gujarat: Democracy or Religious Fanaticism?

In February of this year, Indian Muslim Council - USA launched a series of public events nationwide to mark the first anniversary of the anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat, India. The campaign commenced with a joint press conference on Capitol Hill with Washington based policy institutes and Human Rights leaders on February 27th. In a build up to the nationwide campaign, IMC-USA briefed congressional staff in Washington, D.C., on February 24th on the deteriorating conditions of Minorities in India. The campaign will end with the IMC-USA National Convention in Santa Clara, CA.

February 28th marked the day in 2002 when Hindutva ultranationalist forces unleashed a well planned pogrom killing and raping thousands and displacing many times more Muslim civilians. Properties worth billions of dollars was destroyed.

Indian human rights activists and International human rights organizations have expressed alarm over the boasts of the ultra-nationalist leaders that Gujarat was a successful experiment which they intend to repeat all over India. They point to the increasing attacks on Muslims, Christians and Dalits all over India and a march on the Indian parliament earlier this year by the militant Hindutva clerics.

For the sake of the victims of Gujarat we must renew our resolve to continue to work to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes against humanity. This will also save future victims, because **LET US NOT FORGET** that Gujarat 2002 was just the tip of a dangerous ice-berg.