

Tehelka Magazine Issue Dated Nov 3, 2007

the Truth

GUJARAT 2002

IN THE WORDS OF THE MEN WHO DID IT

The Most Important Story of Our Time

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GODHRA: THE DIABOLIC LIE

EDITOR'S CUT:



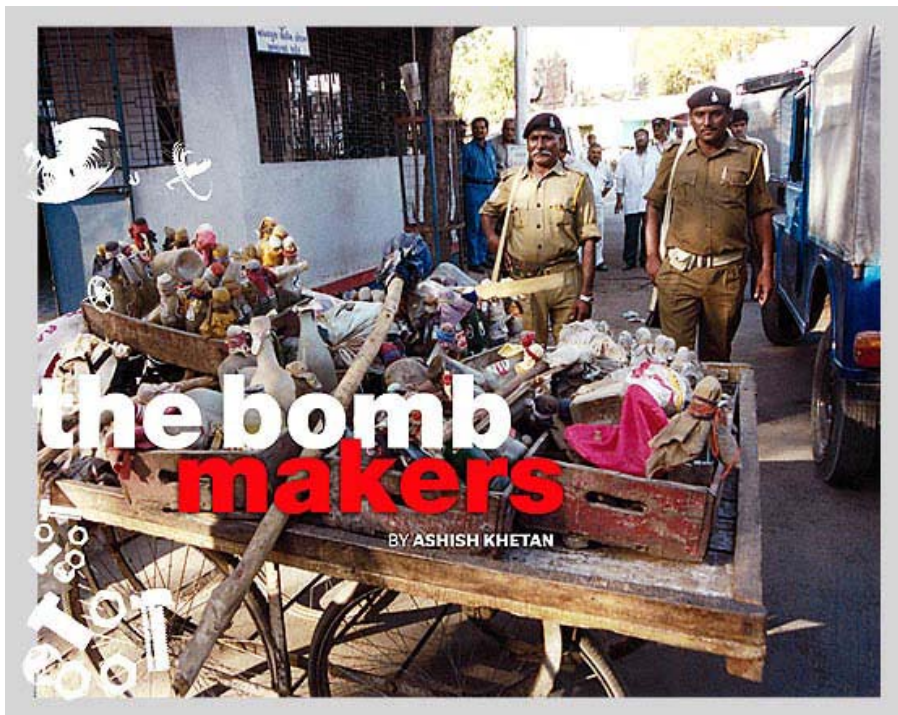
LEST WE FORGET OUR SHAME
Harinder Baweja

REPORTER'S DIARY:



VOYAGER BETWEEN TWO WORLDS
Ashish Khetan

EARLIER IN TEHELKA



The VHP and the Bajrang Dal manufactured and distributed lethal weapons across the state, often with the connivance of the police.

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Terror's Proud Merchants

The VHP and the Bajrang Dal in Gujarat were indistinguishable from terror outfits, manufacturing and distributing bombs, rocket launchers and firearms across the state [READ >>](#)

STING *transcripts*

HARESH BHATT
'We Made A Complete Rocket Launcher Here'

DHAWAL JAYANTI PATEL
'Bombs Were Useful In Close Encounters'

ANIL PATEL
'Explosives Experts Helped Make The Bombs'

Nov 03, 2007

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The Bomb Makers

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HARESH BHATT, who was the Bajrang Dal rashtriya sah sanyojak in 2002 and is now the BJP MLA from Godhra, till the riots a Congress stronghold, made a never-before admission that bombs were made at a firecracker factory he owned. He describes how they assembled country-made explosives, including rocket launchers. These were then distributed to murderous mobs in Ahmedabad

EARLIER IN TEHELKA

IN 2002, despite curfew in Ahmedabad, swords were brought in from Punjab and country pistols from UP, Bihar and MP. Bhatt boasts that none of these states were under BJP rule then. The consignment of arms crossed the borders not once but many times. "There were tens and tens of them," Bhatt reveals

IN AN UNRELATED but crucial disclosure, Bhatt says that he trained 40 young men who then went on to demolish the Babri Masjid in December 1992. He trained them like the army does, and ran obstacle courses for them and taught them how to climb a 30-ft rope. The camp still exists in Ahmedabad

DHAWAL JAYANTI PATEL of the VHP used dynamite in his quarries in Sabarkantha. With the help of an old RSS hand, Amruth Patel, who was an expert in handling explosives, bombs were made in the quarries using dynamite and RDX-based powder

ANIL PATEL, the VHP Vibhag pramukh, talks of how explosives were made in Sabarkantha and then supplied to Ahmedabad

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The Bombmakers

Terror's Proud Merchants

ASHISH KHETAN

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Paras Shah

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THE VISHWA Hindu Parishad (VHP) and its so-called youth wing, the Bajrang Dal, were the major groups involved in the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat in 2002. Though civil society groups and human rights activists have been vocal about the role of these outfits all through the genocide, only a few of their members have been implicated on charges of murder and rioting. Babu Bajrangi, a Bajrang Dal zealot, is among the few facing trial for their role in the massacre. By and large, most rioters from the VHP and Bajrang Dal, particularly its top leadership, walked away with blood on their hands.

It's not difficult to see why. The Bajrang Dal and the VHP are nothing but extensions of the BJP, which was in power in the state at the time and also led the coalition government at the Centre. During the investigation, TEHELKA found out how leaders of the VHP and the Bajrang Dal had planned the pogrom. To execute their plan "effectively", they required military hardware, they required weapons more sophisticated and lethal than swords, knives and tridents, arms better suited to hand-to-hand combat. They needed an arsenal that could kill in large numbers.

The TEHELKA investigation found that the VHP and the Bajrang Dal had transformed themselves into terror outfits that manufactured and distributed bombs, rocket launchers and firearms in large quantities after the Godhra incident. This weaponry was then handed over to murderous mobs across Gujarat.



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'We Made A Complete Rocket Launcher Here'

Transcript: HARESH BHATT

The Godhra MLA reveals how his firecracker factory made bombs that were then smuggled across the state

JUNE 1, 2007

Hareesh Bhatt: Get rid of their lathis... teach them [the RSS] to use guns... Bajrang Dal members undergo arms training... I am the first in the whole country to run a warg [training module]... I formed the first warg in Gujarat in 1987... with seven young men...



Hareesh Bhatt

TEHELKA: In '87?

Bhatt: Yes, in '87...The [Babri Masjid] demolition that happened later, I gave training for that too... Forty young men from across the country were brought here... I also trained Bajrang Dal activists here in Sarkhej, which created a ruckus later... Rajesh Pilot even said in the Lok Sabha that training was being given in Sarkhej... training in demolition...

TEHELKA: You mean of the Babri Masjid..

Bhatt: Yes. The training to demolish the Babri Masjid was given in Sarkhej in Ahmedabad.

TEHELKA: So Pilot raised this question...

Bhatt: Yes... And a CBI inquiry and all... went on here...

TEHELKA: Against you?

Bhatt: Me... against the instructors here... all of them.

TEHELKA: Okay.

Bhatt: The training centre still exists...At the start, we gave them the same training they give in the army... judo, karate... rifle shooting... obstacle courses like in the army... how to climb a 30-ft rope... bungee jumping... how to leap from one wall to another... all this in a 15-day training session... It still goes on... One session has just ended...

...

TEHELKA: When Godhra happened in 2002... now, Hindus hardly ever keep arms... so how then did they get weapons?...



Death worship Bhatt with the VHP's Pravin Togadia

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Bhatt: I have my own gun factory... I used to make firecrackers... We made all the bombs there... Diesel bombs, pipe bombs, we made them there... and we used to distribute them from there as well... We ordered two truckloads of swords from Punjab... right here, in a village called Dhariya, we readied everything there... and then we distributed the samaan [arms]... At that time, the only thing was that the samaan was needed...

TEHELKA: Where did you get the arms from?

Bhatt: We got many country-made pistols... from MP, from UP... we got pistols from everywhere and I distributed them from here... I am talking about this for the first time... nobody knew this secret.

TEHELKA: I know that Hindus do not keep weapons, apart perhaps from kitchen knives...

Bhatt: We distributed so many weapons that people were shocked to see how many there were... We would make them here and then test them... We made a complete launcher inside a pipe, right here in the factory... It was a launcher from the side and had piping over that... chaar ki pipe lagaate the... after closing the entire hole we filled that with shrapnel and nails... and beneath that placed a 595 bomb... We'd set it off... it would go through a wall nine inches thick...

•••

TEHELKA: Hareshbhai, you were saying that you got arms from Kanpur, but there was curfew...

Bhatt: Why couldn't they have been brought?... Anything can be brought.

TEHELKA: I was thinking that if curfew...

Bhatt: I got them from MP... I got them from Bihar.

TEHELKA: But how, when curfew was in force?

Bhatt: Things come, everything can come.

TEHELKA: If it came from other states, it had to cross borders...

Bhatt: That's it... they would smuggle it... and it wasn't just one trip that came for me... there were scores of them.

TEHELKA: Our government wasn't even in power in Kanpur then...

Bhatt: No we weren't... Nor were we ruling in MP.

TEHELKA: Not even in MP...

Bhatt: Not in MP... not in UP... not even in Bihar...

TEHELKA: So how could these consignments come?

Bhatt: Don't ask me all this.

TEHELKA: But they did come...

Bhatt: Yes, they definitely came... You can ask [VHP treasurer] Rohitbhai... [about] the arrangements that were made... So many of our Hindus were dying, what was done?... These are the questions you should be asking...

TEHELKA: So only swords were brought...

Bhatt: No, he'll tell you everything... I told you we made launchers... launchers with stands and with pipes this thick... in factories... We went to test them...

TEHELKA: You mean the rocket launchers...

Bhatt: Yes... we'd fill them with gunpowder... first fill them, close them, then light a 595 local-made to blast it all...

TEHELKA: Were these ever used?

Bhatt: So much was used in the border areas, that they were astonished at how it had all been transported.

TEHELKA: Were they used in Ahmedabad?

Bhatt: Yes... Ahmedabad... Rohitbhai will tell you...

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Transcript:
DHAWAL JAYANTI PATEL

The VHP's Sabarkantha zila sanyojak, who owns a quarry in the area, shares recipes from his home-grown bomb factory

JUNE 13, 2007

TEHELKA: I had a long meeting with Anilbhai, who spoke very openly. He told me about the dynamite... Is there a mine here?

Patel: There is, right here.



Dhawal Jayanti Patel

TEHELKA: Were bombs made here?

Patel: Everything went from here itself... See, blasting stones is our work anyway... We get material for blasting... we can use it easily.

TEHELKA: Dynamite?...

Patel: Meaning, our work is to blast stones and we blast stones with that...

TEHELKA: With dynamite?... So how many bombs were made at that time [in 2002]?

Patel: Lots of bombs... lots of *desi* bombs were made and sent...

TEHELKA: A thousand? Two thousand?

Patel: They were useful in the galis, in face-to-face encounters... Juhapura... Kalapur... the half-Hindu areas.

TEHELKA: So you had some bombmaking experts here at that time?

Patel: Yes, yes... There is one Amrudhbhai Patel...

TEHELKA: He made the bombs?

Patel: He taught us... he was in jail earlier...

TEHELKA: Is he from the Sangh...

Patel: He is from the RSS ... He is quite old... and was in jail in 1989 for making bombs...

TEHELKA: Would you show me how they are made? [Dhawal tells his men in Gujarati to bring bombmaking material]...

Patel: Stones are blasted... the stones are stuffed [with dynamite] and blasted apart. The ground breaks with the impact, so imagine what it will do to human beings... This is used to

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drill a hole in the boulders.... Then there is this powder with RDX base.

TEHELKA: RDX?

Patel: Mixed... there is some RDX.... There is this white powder... then you connect a wire.... Then wire the battery... press it like this and rotate it and the blast takes place... It can be triggered with a mobile battery... it needs 20 watts power... We've become systematic now... Earlier we'd just light it and throw it... it blasts everything... boxes, you know, paan masala boxes... fill them, light them and throw them...

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Transcript: ANIL PATEL

The Gujarat VHP's vibhag pramukh speaks of bombs destined for Ahmedabad being smuggled from stone quarries owned by VHP workers in Sabarkantha

JUNE 13, 2007

TEHELKA: In Ahmedabad, bombs were made at Hareshbhai's own factory. How did it happen here?

Patel: There are a lot of boring industries here... because of which dynamite is available. Then, we also had some experts... they also made them [the explosives] and supplied them to Ahmedabad



Anil Patel

Nov 03, 2007

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