

Resolution on Gujarat Carnage **9th International women's Health Meeting (IWHM), Toronto 12-16 2002**

We, the participants of the 9th IWHM over 60 countries across the world strongly condemn the carnage of Muslim in Gujarat, India since 28th February, 2002. We are deeply anguished at the systematic and gruesome violence causing serious violation of human rights, which killed over 2000 women, children and men and injured maimed and displaced 200,000 people. We see this process of annihilating of the minority communities as an indication of the erosion of the democratic and secular fabric of India.

We deplore the state backed Hindu right wing violence in Gujarat, which resulted in the loss of lives, livelihoods, property, dignity and security, as well as the desecration of cultural and religious spaces of Muslims. All these violate the fundamental rights granted by the Constitution of India. The premeditated carnage targeted women through large-scale sexual assault, rape and mutilation of body parts including ripping out of fetuses. Victims of violence were thereafter burnt alive, often in presence of loved ones. Targeting women's bodies as battlegrounds of religious hatred and the killing of children is, in our opinion, nothing short of genocide. If not checked, this could lead to wide spread massacres and disenfranchisement of all minorities in India.

We, the member of the international community, see it as our responsibility to strongly demand immediate justice and redressers for all victims and survivors of the Gujarat carnage. Conditions of peace and security must be ensured so that people can rebuild their lives and livelihoods. All perpetrators both within and outside the state machinery should be tried and appropriately punished.

Passed by the participants of the 9th International women's Health Meeting
Toronto, Canada.

Help :

What You can Do

The Hindu right wing organizations like the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajarang Dal receive a large proportion of their funds from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) living in the American continent. You could identify individuals and organizations in your area and campaign to prevent them from funding these organizations.

1. Send letters to the Prime Minister and President of India condemning the state violence and demanding punishment for perpetrators and immediate justice for victims and survivors. Address your letters to
 - i). Prime Minister of INDIA, PM Office, South Block, New Delhi 110001, India.

ii) President of India, Rashtrpati Bhavan, New Delhi 1100001, India.

2. Carry out media campaigns in your area to inform people of the extent of human rights violations on women, children and men in the months following February 27,2002.
3. Organise demonstrations condemning the Gujarat violence in your city as well as in the front of Indian High Commission in your country.
4. Campaign with your local government representatives to pressurize UN special Rapporteurs to investigate the Gujarat carnage and press for appropriate action for the justice.

Send copies of your letters to shanti_pucl@yahoo.com or smasaro@vsnl.com
For more information: <http://www.sabrang.com>
<http://www.onlinevolunteers.org>