

Memorial to a Genocide

February 27/28 marks ten years since the tragic death of 59 persons in a fire in a coach of the Sabarmati Express near Godhra railway station and the criminal manipulation of this tragic incident as a pretext for the Modi government-sponsored anti-Muslim genocide throughout the state.

On February 27, thousands of survivors of the mass crime together with lawyers, jurists, activists, artists, artistes and intellectuals from all over the country will assemble at Gulberg Society, Ahmedabad, for a commemoration. Through words and images, reminiscences and video clips, photographs and digital installations, a wailing wall in memory of missing persons, acknowledgements to those who risked their lives to save others and to those who joined the struggle for justice, with music and tears, the crimes against humanity committed ten years ago will be recalled and the plight of the traumatised and the displaced highlighted. Survivors from Gulberg Society will lead the assembled people through the housing colony and recount the horrors of February 28, 2002. A collective resolve will be renewed to continue the struggle for justice for the survivors and punishment to the perpetrators and masterminds of the carnage. Saviours, those who swam against the tide of hatred to give succour and save lives will be especially remembered... their conversations relayed live.

A unique concert, Music in Memoriam, will be the finale of the live memorial, performed by Shubha Mudgal (vocal), Aneesh Pradhan (tabla) and Sudhir Nayak (harmonium).

The entire programme at Gulberg Society, symbolising the holocaust in Gujarat, will be webcast live and posted on YouTube subsequently so that we remember and never forget. The URL for the webcast will be available on www.cjponline.org and www.sabrang.com from February 27. Secular and minority rights activists and groups in Ayodhya-Faizabad, Aligarh, Malegaon, Lucknow, Madurai, Calicut, Mumbai and Delhi will also be having commemorations at around the same time. All these will be available for permanent viewing thereafter.

Communalism Combat will join all the others at Gulberg Society on February 27 to participate in the commemoration. This issue of the journal is part of that effort.

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