

**Kashmiri
Pandits (Hindus)
Expose
Jagmohan's
Plot**

with the compliments of

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A Migrant Kashmiri Hindu Exposes The Conspiracy

Daily AlSafah, Srinagar, Kashmir
September 18, 1990.

Kindly allow me to draw the kind attention of Kashmiri Muslim brothers, through the columns of your esteemed daily, towards the miseries, hardships and the exploitation of their Kashmiri Pandit brothers. I know that my community has lost the affection, love, respect and the good will of the Kashmiri Muslims for having betrayed them very recently. I feel ashamed to admit that my community has stabbed the Kashmiri Muslims in the back. This all happened at the insistence of former governor Jagmohan. Some self-styled Pandit leaders and Hindus fundamentalist organizations exploited the situation and the Kashmiri Pandits became refugees, in their own homeland. I think it will be better to narrate the events, that took place, that led to the mass migration of the "Kashmiri Pandits" from the valley.

In the first week of February 1990, a word was sent to the members of the Pandit community in Kashmir and they were asked to migrate to safer places. This message from the former governor Jagmohan was conveyed to the Pandit community through some self-styled Pandit leaders. Pandits were told that the government had plans of killing about one lakh (hundred thousand) to one lakh fifty thousand Kashmiri Muslims particularly, the youth in order to overcome the uprising against India. Pandits were assured that they would be looked after well, that they would be provided relief, free ration, jobs and free accommodation. Pandits were assured that once the proposed massacre of the Kashmiri Muslims was completed and the movement was curbed, they would be sent back to the valley. That is how most of the Pandits left. My community now understands that it was merely made a scapegoat and it was a very crude way of painting the mass uprising against India as nothing but a communal flare up. Indian government tried to fool the world by telling members of the world community that the uprising against India was in fact the handiwork of some misguided Muslim fundamentalists who had turned against non-Muslims and had thrown them out of their homes.

To start with, Pandits were treated well and a lot of sympathy was shown for them. Very soon, the scenario changed and things have become very difficult for the Pandit community. Our community is looked down upon and

Pandits who are settled here call us refugees even though they also queue up for free ration and the relief. The locals treat us as invaders and behave like that. Abnormal rates are charged for milk, vegetables, grocery and other things of daily use. Even the house rent has sky rocketed. Imagine the rent for a room of 10 x 12 dimensions is around rupees one thousand to twelve hundred. You can very well understand the plight of members of the Pandit community under these circumstances.

Our young men have become vagabonds because they have nothing to do except for roaming on the roads. Some of our young men have taken to drugs because of great mental and emotional turbulence. Our women are treated like whores and prostitutes. People from this (Jammu) region are under the impression that shortage of money is a sufficient reason for our young women to sell their bodies and honour.

This change in the scenario should have brought our self-styled leaders to their senses but it seems that they have learnt nothing from these events and the sufferings of their community. It is quite clear that they have completely sold themselves, heart and soul, to the Hindu fundamentalist organizations like the B.J.P. and the Shiv Sena and are speaking their language. Some of these self-styled leaders are still harping on the demand for the abrogation of article 370. Some of them are issuing idiotic statements for reconquering Kashmir so that Indian tricolour is hoisted on every roof top of Kashmir and “Bande Matram” is sung in every lane of Kashmir. Some self-styled Pandit leaders, at the behest of their masters, are harping on the BJP and Shiv Sena formula of changing the Muslim majority character of the state. I demand that these traitors of our nation should be stoned to death. I also appeal to every Kashmiri Pandit not to become a prey of such malicious propaganda and denounce these self-styled leaders.

Kindly convey our hand folded respects to the “Mujahdeen” of our nation. Kindly convey our hand folded respects to all our brothers and sisters. We salute their courage and their valour.

Brij Nath Bhan, M.L. Dhar, K.L. Kaw, Kanhaya Lal Raina, G.N. Daftari, Moti Lal Mam, C.L. Kak, Chuni Lal Raina, M.L. Munshi, B.N. Ganjoo, Ashok Kaul, C.L. Parimu, Poshkar Nath Bhatt, Pran Nath Kher, R.L. Razdan, Poshkar Nath Kaul, B.N. Bhat, Moti Lal Kaul, Ashok Dhar, Kaml Raina, H.K. Kaul and S.N. Dhar.

Runaway Pandits Confess.

Daily AlSafah, Srinagar, kashmir.
October 18, 1990.

"Yes, we have betrayed our motherland."

There can be no dispute about the fact that the kashmiri Pandits (KPs) were made into scapegoats by Jagmohan, some self-styled leaders of our community and other vested interests.

The drama was staged by some communal organizations like the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) and the Shiv Sena in connivance with the state administration. In this drama, the main characters were played by Advani, Vjpayee, Mufti and Jagmohan and the state administration was made to play the role of a joker.

It is an open secret now that the Indian occupation force had drawn a plan to massacre a larger section of the kashmiri Muslims, particularly those in the age group of 14 to 25 years so that the people could be enslaved and subjected for all times to come. According to reliable and well-informed sources, the plan was to make the KPs migrate from the valley so that the mass uprising against occupation of forces could be painted as a communal flare-up and the massacre of the Muslims could be termed as a fight against the communal forces and measure for restoration of law and order. The orders to foreign journalists to vacate the valley and restrictions on the local press should be seen in that scenario and perspective. The idea was to keep the world community ignorant of the real issue and create a vocer for the sinister designs of the occupation forces.

Some self-styled leaders of the Pandits, led by none other than a stove-mechanic-turned-politician and a pimp of Farooq Abdullah (former Chief Minister of the State) named B.H. Jattu, begged the Pandits to migrate from the Valley. We were told that our migration was very vital for preserving and protecting "dharam" (religion) and the unity and integrity of India. We were told that our migration would pave the way or realizing the dream of "Akhand Bharat". We were made to believe that the valley was about to be conquered

by Pakistan, with the active support of local Muslims. We were given to understand that it was purely a war between Hinduism and Islam. At the same time, we were assured that as soon as the people of the Valley were silenced and made to surrender, we shall be sent back to our homes. *THAT DAY HAS YET TO COME AND UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT SEE ANY SUCH HOPE.* We now understand that it is not a war between two religions but a struggle for independence which is the birth right of every human being.

It is very well known fact that the local Dogras are treating us as nothing but PIGS and DOGS though they spare no efforts to squeeze us. The locals are exploiting us and we have in fact become money-spinning machines for them. Whatever is given to us in the name of relief passes on to them in the shape of house rent and charges for essential commodities but they still have a grudge against us. They treat us as parasites.

We feel ashamed to admit that we have betrayed not only our motherland but even those who have given us love for centuries together. We also feel ashamed to admit that we have committed a great blunder by playing our part in communalizing the freedom struggle whereas we should have been a part of it.

The Pandits rotting in Jammu, can be divided into three categories. In the first category are those who are already settled in Jammu and have their own houses. These Pandits treat us like invaders and call us "refugees" even though they also are getting the benefits by fraud and proxy which are meant for migrants only. The second category consists of those Pandits who have come from the slums in Srinagar back home. These Pandits came from the slums in Srinagar like areas of Habbakadal, Gangpatyarr, Rainawari etc and most of them have no permanent source of income in Kashmir Valley. They are more than content on receiving relief and have particularly nothing at stake in the valley. That is how members of this category are more vocal and take a lead in defaming the Kashmiri Muslims because they do not want to return home. Most of these Pandits have given their daughters in Marriage to the Dogras with a hope of getting their favours. Most of the self-styled leaders of the KP's come from this category. The third category is of those Pandits who come from a well-to-do- background and have left back property in the Valley.

We strongly condemn the atrocities that are being unleashed on our brothers by the Indian Occupation Fores. We also appeal to the government of India and to all peace loving people of India to fulfil the promises that were given by their leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru. We also appeal to the UNO to compel India and implement the resolutions passed in 1948 for grant

of right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir. We salute to their valour and courage which they are showing against the onslaught of the occupation forces. Please remind them that it is a temporary phase and that the blood of the great martyrs will be victorious very soon.

The Fleeing Pandits

Amit Baruah

Frontline, Madras, India
September 29, 1990.

The flight of Kashmiri Pandits from the valley is a tragic commentary on inter-community relations in the State. It has ruptured the cultural links between the two communities.

According to information given in Parliament recently, till end July, 48,894 migrant families were registered in the Jammu region and 11,438 in Delhi. The other figures were: Uttar Pradesh (857), Rajasthan (61), Haryana (94), Maharashtra (39), Punjab (1,293), Chandigarh (216), Madhya Pradesh (75), Himachal Pradesh (66) and Gujarat (54).

But there is a flip side as well. Several Kashmiri Pandit families continue to live quietly with support from their Muslim neighbors both in the rural and urban areas; their existence is low-key and they do not want to attract attention to themselves.

Prithvi Nath of Nunar village, off the Srinagar-Leh highway is one such who has stuck on, with his family of six. "There is no difference now and then for my family," he told frontline. A little apprehensive initially, as almost everyone is in the Valley these days, Prithvi Nath gradually opened up. An employee of the Public Works Department, he said some 60 to 70 Pandit families had fled in March. Why did he not go? "I have never had any problems with my neighbors. Yeh to hamare paap hain ki is tarah ki sitihi yahan ban gayi hai (it is our sin that has created such a situation in the valley)", he said.

Another Pandit, whose family lives in Nunarr, is Som Nath. "My wife, my father, we are all living here. Yahan par aise log hain jo hamare upar marte hain (There are people in the village who are ready to sacrifice all for us)." He is, however, not able to say why several families belonging to his community had left. Som Nath works in the Irrigation Department apart from being a farmer. He said that he had been attending to his work as usual.

“The fields of the Pandits who have left the village are lying there. Their houses are as they had been left. No one has touched them,” he said, sitting outside his house.

Ghulam Mohammed Sofi, a local shopkeeper, is one of Som Nath's closest friends. Several villagers said they (the Muslims) had offered to protect the Pandits. “As far as we are concerned nothing has changed,” Sofi said.

The families of Som Nath and Prithvi Nath are not the only ones staying out in the area. There are others, though few in number, proving that amicable community relations are not a thing of the past in the valley. Even in the urban areas a sprinkling of Pandit families continues to live alongside their Muslim neighbors.

Even in Srinagar prominent citizens made efforts to persuade the minority Pandits not to leave. A small committee was formed for the purpose, but the efforts were unsuccessful. Governor Jagmohan, it is alleged, encouraged the migration.

A senior state government official said the Pandits have been visiting their houses in Shivepora, Indira Nagar and Sonawar colonies. “About a month ago 60 percent of houses of Pandits were occupied. None of the houses have been taken over. Not a single lock has been broken,” the official maintained.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Talk given by

Mr. George Fernandes
Former Cabinet Minister, Government of India
October 12, 1990.

...but I don't think you will find any kashmiri Muslim who endorses the idea of militants choosing Kashmiri Pandits as their target for religious reasons. In fact, even those who have chosen them as targets try to explain away their action by saying that we didn't choose them because they were Pandits; we choose them because they were acting as a fifth column of the Government of India.... In other words, the atmosphere in the valley is such that even those who have chosen these targets are unwilling to admit that religion is the factor underlying their action.

I saw last in Kashmir a fortnight back. I spent four days there. There is once again a move on the part of the insurgents to make public appeals to the people who have migrated from the valley to come back. This move has the support not merely of the villagers, but also of the Pandits who are living in the valley, who have refused to move out despite all the perceived threats to their lives. One point which people constantly make and which, I believe, needs to be made is that the property, houses, orchards owned by the Pandits have not been damaged in the last one year. The apples, for instance, from these orchards, have been plucked and sold and the money has been deposited. The houses are being looked after as they were earlier. And there is generally an effort on the part of the JKLF to take specific steps to persuade the Pandits to come back.

...Well, I think you have expressed your views. Only one statement I would like to make. The telephone system, the telegraph system, the postal system, the banking system, just about every establishment in Srinagar is totally paralyzed today. The number of employees has dwindled to between 5 to 10%. It is paralyzed because most of the employees were Kashmiri Pandits who have left the Valley. You rightly said that 3% are Pandits and 97% are Muslims. But, unfortunately, every government department is paralyzed because the Pandits have left their jobs. They happened to have 90% of the jobs against 97% of the Muslims, who had less than 10% of the jobs. Since you made a statement, I thought I should reply.