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Blaming "mojahedin" for India attacks "mischievous move" - Pakistani analyst

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Text of report headlined "Pakistani analyst says blaming "Mujahidin" for **Mumbai attack** "mischievous move" by Pakistan's private television channel Geo News website on 27 November

The sad incidents of **Mumbai attacks** are not only being condemned on regional level but also at international level. On the other hand the Indian government has not put the blame on any of the countries or organizations. To talk on **Mumbai attacks** we have with us over telephone former ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] chief Hamid Gul:

[Anchorperson Ayesha Bakhsh] Mr Hamid Gul, what is your analysis of the blasts and attacks continuing in Mumbai since last night?

[Gul] It is very difficult to give any analysis of that because enough information is not available. However, it can be said that whoever these people are who have carried out this episode are very highly motivated and such an attack is either carried out by religious forces or the ideological [elements] like Indian communists, or the people like Jan Sangh or Vishwa Hindu Preshad [VHP] who are very motivated people. So it is hard to say because in India there are many cavities. There are many contradictions within. It is very hard to say at the moment that who has done this.

[Bakhsh] Mr Hamid Gul, this is for the first time, quite unexpectedly, that Pakistan has not been named so far. Lashkar-e Tayyiba which is blamed for every action is also not been named yet. What do you think how far there is a possibility of any international involvement here?

[Gul] Yes, international involvement, certainly if someone wants to reverse the warming of relations between Pakistan and India and wants to incite India to attack Pakistan then it is understandable that it may be an international conspiracy. Secondly, Mumbai is their economic hub. If it is disturbed, foreigners are killed then India's economic activity would be severely affected. And it cannot be said at the moment which forces could be interested in that because for that we need more information.

[Bakhsh] Mr Hamid Gul, the militants who have talked to the Indian media were saying that the mojahedin should be released but it could not be specified who those mojahedin were? What do you think who these mojahedin are?

[Gul] No, I believe this is just a deception. It is a mischievous move by someone so that the entire blame is put on the Muslims. I do not think these are those people. Just saying that mojahedin should be released may refer to anyone. I believe this is simply a mischief.

[Bakhsh] Mr Hamid Gul, as several hours have passed what do you think, from the strategy the militants have adopted, how many more hours can they prolong this?

[Gul] You see, if the night falls then it will be further prolonged. India is half an hour ahead of us in time. At 4.30 p.m [local time]. our time which is 5 p.m. there, sunset begins. In that case they will be able to do anything by the next morning.

[Bakhsh] Mr Hamid Gul, you must be watching the strategy their security and agencies have adopted. How far they seem successful in your opinion?

[Gul] It is very flawed. They have not been able to save many lives. They have stormed it abruptly. If people had been taken hostage even then there was a way out for that. What was wrong if they had waited one or two days? Loss of so many lives is very ridiculous, very brutal. I believe it is seriously flawed.

[Bakhsh] On the other hand if we talk of the militants what do you think how much they are equipped. How do you look at the strategy they adopted?

[Gul] This is what I said earlier that their strategy of carrying out so many attacks at the same time means they are a very large group and it is an extreme inefficiency and incompetence of the Indian intelligence that they could not watch it despite the fact that in 1993 or perhaps in 1992 several blasts had taken place in Mumbai and even after that their sympathizers... [as received], series of blasts have been taking place. Despite that if their arrangements were so flawed that means that a very well-organized group is present there which can do this activity. Crime is also very high there in Mumbai. There are many underworld people there but I believe that this is not a work of underworld people. As I said this requires a very high degree of motivation.

[Bakhsh] Thank you very much for talking to us, former ISI chief Mr Hamid Gul. [end recording]

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