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'This is only a trailer, the full film is yet to be shown'

March 18, 2009

November 27, 2.33 pm, Chabad House

Handler: *Salaam ailekum?*

Terrorist: *Wailekum as-salaam.*

Handler: *Kya haal chaal hai?* (How is it going?)

Terrorist: *Allah ka shukar hai* (Things are fine by Allah's grace).

Handler: *Koi phone aaya?* (Has any phone call come?)

Terrorist: *Koi Inspector Patil tha Mumbai police ka; uska phone aaya. Maine kaha inspector winspector kya hota hai -- koi higher authorities se baat karao* (It was some Inspector Patil from Mumbai police. I said I will not talk to some ordinary inspector -- get the higher authorities to talk).

Handler: *Kaho area khali karao. Aur grenades feke bahar aapne?* (Tell them to clear the area. And did you throw grenades?)

Terrorist: *Haan ji feke* (Yes, we did).

Handler: *Kab feke?* (When did you throw them?)

Terrorist: *Abhi koi ek-do minute hua hoga* (Just a minute or two back).

Handler: *Koi halchal hui?* (Did anything stir up?)

Terrorist: *Grenade fekne ke baad koi jawabi firing nahi hui hai* (There was no firing in response).

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Handler: *Kis taraf grenade feka hai?* (In what direction did you throw them?)

Terrorist: *Woh Merchant House ki taraf* (Towards Merchant House).

Handler: *Achha ab aap gun ki barrel bahar nikaal ke gali mein fire karein ek-do. Sirf barrel nikaalni hai, apna jism saamne nahi karna hai; neeche gali hai na open fire karein* (Now you push out the gun barrel and fire once or twice in the lane outside. Don't expose your body, only the barrel; there is an open lane below -- fire there).

Terrorist: *Haan open hai. Lekin hum daaye, baaye aur back mein fire kar sakte hain, front nazar nahi aa raha hai* (Yes, it is open. We can fire in the left, right, and back, but we cannot see anything in the front lane).

Handler: *Achha, to darwaza khula nahi abhi tak aapka?* (Ok, so you have still not opened your door?)

Terrorist: *Nahi abhi tak nahi khula* (No, not yet).

Handler: *Achha jo bhi bahar harkat karta hua banda nazar aaye na usko fire maaro. Apne aapko bachana hai; ek banda oopar chhat pe rakho, aur koi bhi movement nazar aaye to fire karo* (The moment you see someone doing something outside, open fire. And, you have to protect yourself; put a man on the rooftop, and the instant you see any movement, open fire).

Terrorist: *Achha yeh jo aurat hai agar iski hum khud media mein baat karaaye? Yeh khud media ko bataaye ki hamare saath yeh ho raha hai aur hamein bachaya jaye* (Ok, what if we get this woman to talk to the media herself? She will tell the media what is happening with her and that she needs to be saved). [The instructor in Pakistan stops to watch TV for a while.]

Handler: *Abhi aapne jo grenade feke hain usse media mein shor mach gaya hai* (The grenade you just threw has created a commotion in the media). [A third person now takes the phone.]

Handler: *Salaam ailekum.*

Terrorist: *Wailekum as-salaam.*

Handler: *Kaise ho bhaiya?* (How are you brother?)

Terrorist: *Allah ka shukar hai* (Things are fine by the grace of Allah).

Handler: *Jo baatein maine aapko batayi thi yaad hai na? Agar media waale poochhe kahan ke ho to kehna Hyderabad Deccan ka hoon; Hyderabad city ka hoon* (You remember all that I had told you? If the media asks where you are from, tell them you are from Hyderabad in the Deccan; that you are from the city of Hyderabad).

Terrorist: *Hyderabad.*

Handler: *Haan. Aur kehna Toli Chauki area ka hoon; aur kehna Mujahideen Deccan se mera talluk hai. Kis tanzeem se? Mujahideen Hyderabad Deccan. Aur woh pooche yeh sab kisliye kiya? Aap likh rahe hain na?* (Yes. And say you are from the Toli Chauki area; say you are associated with the Deccan Mujahideen. And if they ask why you did all this? are you writing all this down?)

Terrorist: *Haan ji* (Yes).

Handler: *Kehna hukumat ki dohri policy, hukumat to peeth thapthapati hai aur prashasan to sar par tole marti hai iski taza misaal Sachar Committee ki sifarshat hai, hukumat kuchh aur ailan karti hai aur prashasan uska amal Muslim naujawano ko pakad-pakad kar karti hai* (Say it is the duplicitous policy of the government -- on one hand they pat our backs, on the other they beat our heads with hammers. The latest example of this is the Sachar Committee Report. The government declares one thing but the administration executes its reverse by wrongly arresting Muslim youth.) Terrorist: *Muslim?*

Handler: *Yuvko ko...* (Youth).

Terrorist: *Yuv...*

Handler: *Muslim naujawano ko giraftar karta hai, unka jo future barbaad karta hai. Aur unko ultimatum de de ki yeh abhi hamara trailer hai, asal film to abhi baaki hai. Aur sun, itminaan ke saath baat karna, khali apni baat karni hai; unko sawaal karne ka mauka kam dena hai* (Muslim youth are arrested, their future is ruined. And give them the ultimatum that this is only a trailer, the full film is yet to be shown. And listen, talk confidently, and only allow yourself to talk; don't let them ask too many questions). Terrorist: *Theek hai. Inshallah* (All right).

Image: The scene outside Nariman house (Chabad House) during the terrorist attacks

Photograph: Sanjay Sawant

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