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The terrorists make their demands

March 18, 2009

Handler: *Ek minute* (one minute). [The voice goes into consultation with other voices in the room. Some other voice now takes over the phone.]

Handler: *Woh poochhenge aapki demand kya hai* (They will ask what is your demand).

Terrorist: *Ji* (Yes).

Handler: *Aap kehna, jitney bhi Musalmaan jailon mein band hai aap unko riha karo, number ek; number do, Muslim state*

Musalmaano ke hawale kar diya jaaye. Number teen, Kashmir se fauj bulayi jaaye aur Kashmiriyon ko unka haque diya jaaye. Babri Masjid par fauri taur par masjid ka kaam shuru kiya jaaye, uss jagah ko Musalmaano ke hawale kiya jaaye. Israel ke saath gathbandhan na kiya jaaye (You say, first, release all the Muslims in the jails; second, hand over the Muslim state to Muslims. Third, call back the Army from Kashmir and give Kashmiris their rightful due. Begin the construction of Babri Masjid immediately. The land of the masjid should be handed over to Muslims right away. Do not maintain ties with Israel).

Terrorist: *Israel ke saath?* (With Israel?)

Handler: *Israel ke saath gathjod na kiya jaaye; aur Israel hukumat ko yeh ultimatum diya jaaye ki Musalmaano ke oopar zyadti band karein* (Break off ties with Israel; and give the ultimatum to the Israeli government that it should stop the injustice on Muslims).

Terrorist: *Musalmaano ke khoon se khelna band kiya jaaye* (Stop playing with Muslim blood). [The terrorist gives his own poetic touch to the last bit while jotting down the notes.]

Handler: *Aur Israel agar yeh nahi karega? Bas bas, yahi baatein theek hain, theek hai?* (And if Israel doesn't agree? No, no, this much is

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enough, okay?)

Terrorist: *Theek hai* (Okay). [Another voice takes over the phone.]

Handler: *Jo aapki jagah hai na, kehna Nariman House se baat kar raha hoon. Media kah rahi hai ki Nariman House mein aatankwadi hai* (And the place you are at, say you are calling from Nariman House. The media is saying there are terrorists in Nariman House). [The terrorists and the planners knew the place as Chabad House, which is the commonly known name of Nariman House.]

Terrorist: *Nariman House*.

Handler: *Nariman, Nariman. Aur saath saath khayal rakhna bahar ka bhi* (And also keep track of what is happening outside).

Terrorist: *Inshallah. Aur jo baate likhayi hain sirf utni hi karni hai?* (And, what you have instructed, we have to say only that much?)

Handler: *Utni hi; ek minute hold karein, number likhein. Yeh Zee TV office ka number hai -- 0120-2511064. Aur aapka number jisse aap call karenge bataoon aapko?* (Yes, only that much; hold on one minute, write this number down. This is the Zee TV office number. And should I tell you the number from which you will call them, because they will ask you?)

Terrorist: *Haan ji, bataien* (Yes, tell me).

Handler: *Aapka number hai 9819464530* (Your number is 9819464530).

Terrorist: *9819464530. Maine usko bolna hai mein bol raha hoon Nariman House se aur mujhe iss number par phone kare* (I have to tell him I am calling from Nariman House and he should call me on this number).

Handler: *Haan aap kahein aapke paas hostage hai, aur aap iss number par fauran call karein* (Yes, you say you have a hostage, so call me on this number right now). [The phone call ends.]

Later in the evening, the terrorist, Babar Imran (Abu Aakasha) finally managed to get through a telephone number of India TV which was provided to him by his handlers.

In a fake Kashmiri accent, he first spoke to the receptionist and thinking he was on live television, he rattled off all the lines he had memorised. The receptionist was flabbergasted.

She asked Imran to be on the line as she transferred the call to the newsroom. The moment a male news producer said 'Hello', Imran again rattled off all the demands he had been told by his handlers to speak on TV.

The news producer told Imran that the conversation was not being broadcast live and asked him to pause so that they could talk normally.

After consultation with others present in the newsroom, the producer finally put Imran through to a female anchor.

Imran announced his demands to the world over the live telecast.

Throughout his conversation Imran maintained the fake Kashmiri accent he had assumed for the interview.

Soon after he ended his telephonic interview, the handlers in Pakistan called to congratulate him for the job well done.

Image: The Commando operation in progress at Nariman house.

Photograph: Rajesh Karkera

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