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## '15 men have climbed down on your building'

March 18, 2009

**28 November, 7.23 am, Chabad House**

[The voice goes into consultation with other voices in the room. Some other voice now takes over the phone.]

Handler: *Salaam ailekum.*

Terrorist: *Wailekum as-salaam.*

Handler: *Kya haal chaal hai pasha?* (How are you doing pasha --[a term of endearment]?)

Terrorist: *Mere khayal se team utaar di gayi hai* (I think the team has got off).

Handler: *Aapke chhat par pandrah bande abhi utre hain helicopter se* (Fifteen men have climbed down on your rooftop right now).

Terrorist: *Khidkiyon ke saamne bhi kuchh khade hain* (They are standing in front of the windows as well).

Handler: *Kya keh rahe hain? Aapko nazar aa raha hai kuch udhar?* (What are you saying? Can you see anything there?)

Terrorist: *Saamne kuchh firing ho rahi hai* (They are firing in the front).

Handler: *Aapke oopar se unhe neeche aana hai. Aapne seedhiyon par aisi position banani hai ki aate hi aap unhe gher lein: unhe seedhiyon se utarna hai neeche. Lekin aisi position banaye ki unke oopar aane se pehle aap grenade feke. Aap aisi position banaye ki matlab kamre mein rahein lekin jo seedhi hai na. Achha, aapko daaye baaye koi fauji nazar aa raha hai?* (They have to climb down to reach you. Take such positions on the staircase so you can corner them as soon as they come: they will have to get down from the stairs. But you throw grenades before they come. You take such a position, you stay in the room but the stairs. Listen, can you see any Army personnel to your right and left?)



Terrorist: *Hamare saamne saaf nazar aa rahe, khidkiyon mein baithe hain* (We can see them clearly in the front, sitting in the windows).

Handler: *Maaro, fire karo, burst maaro. Achha, baat suno, aap abhi kamre mein ho na, aap fire karo. Ek banda bahar darwaje ke paas position leke rakhe, ek andar se fire kare* (Hit them, fire, open burst fire. Ok, listen, just fire from the room. Let one person take position by the door and you fire from inside).

Terrorist: *Lekin hamara aage ka kamra damage ho gaya hai. Hamare paas position nahi baachti hai* (But the room in front of us is damaged. We don't have a position left).

Handler: *Lekin aapko woh nazar aa rahe hain. Kyunki jaise hi unhone aapko dekh liya unhone aap par fire shuru kar dena hai* (But you can see them. Because if they see you, they too will start firing immediately).

Terrorist: *To issi liye keh raha hun ki oopar chhat par jayein aur wahan ladayi kare* (That's why I'm saying, we should go to the roof and fight there).

Handler: *Aapne oopar nahi chadna hai. Do baatein yaad rakhni hain: number ek, jo sniper baithe huye hai na khidkiyon mein, jahan se mauka mil gaya wahan se inhe fire karna hai; doosra, jo log upar utre hai, pandrah log helicopter se, woh aapki taraf aa rahe hain. Unpar grenade feke* (No, you do not have to climb up. Remember two things: one, as soon as you get the chance, fire at the snipers in the window; two, the fifteen people who have got off the helicopter are coming towards you. You have to throw grenades at them).

Terrorist: Hamare paas grenade sirf chaar bache hain (We have only four grenades left).

Handler: *Achha, aap log apni positioning bana lein aur shuru ho jayein* (Ok, you take your positions and begin).

Terrorist: *Positioning mujhe samajh nahi aa rahi ki kaise banani hai* (I cannot understand which positions to take).

Handler: *Seedhiyan corner mein hai na pasha?* (The stairs are in the corner, aren't they?)

Terrorist: *Haan ji, ek side mein hain* (Yes, they are on one side).

Handler: *To ek banda seedhiyon ko cover kare aur doosra cross baithe; jaise maine shaam ko samjhaya tha. Jaise koi agar neeche aata hai to dono taraf se ghir jaaye.* (So one of you has to cover the steps and the other has to sit across; the way I had explained it in the evening. So that if someone comes down, he is surrounded on both sides.)

Terrorist: *Lekin woh agar grenade fekte hain to hamare paas grenade se bachne ke liye aad nahi hai.* (But if he throws a grenade, we do not have any cover to protect ourselves.)

Handler: *Meri baat suno pasha. Agar aap deewar se chipak kar khade ho jaate ho, aur agar grenade fekte to kya aap tak aa sakega?* (Listen to me, pasha. If you stick to the wall, can the grenade reach you?)

Terrorist: *Deewar maine bataya na* (I told you about the wall).

Handler: *Achha aapke paas aur kya hai -- koi sofa, furniture ya foam ka gadda?* (Ok, what else do you have -- any sofa, furniture, or foam

mattress?)

Terrorist: *Haan, foam ka gadda hai, ek minute* (Yes, there is a foam mattress, one minute). [Another man comes on the phone.]

Handler: *Aap ek kaam karein. Aap grenade fekte hue neeche utarna shuru karein* (You do this. While throwing grenades, you start climbing down).

Terrorist: *Hamare paas grenade nahi hai* (We don't have grenades).

Handler: *Do to bache hai na? Woh istemal karein aur neeche wali manzil mein chale jaayein* (You have at least two left, don't you? Use those and go to the floor below).

Terrorist: *Hum darwaze ke peechhe chhup jaayein aur jaise hi woh andar aaye to hum firing karein?* (Should we hide behind the door, and the moment they come, should we fire?)

Handler: *Aap alag alag chhup sakte hain?* (Can you hide at different places?)  
[Another man takes the phone.]

Handler: *Aap ek kaam karein. Aap chhat ki taraf chalein; grenade feke aur unki taraf fire karein. Woh aap par fire kare isse pehle aap unpar fire kare. Aap Bismillah karein* (You do this. Go towards the roof, throw the grenade at them; and fire at them before they can fire at you. Do this now, in the name of Allah).

Terrorist: *Theek hai, ja rahe hain Allah ka naam leke* (Okay, we will go, remembering the name of Allah).

Handler: *Bismillah-e-Rehman-e-rahim* (In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Compassionate).

**Image: Commandos landing on the roof of Nariman House.**

**Photograph: Arun Patil**

**Excerpted from *26/11 Mumbai Attacked*, Edited by Harinder Baweja, Roli Books, 2009, with the publisher's kind permission.**

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