

= Naroda Patiya massacre =

The Naroda Patiya massacre took place on 28 February 2002 at Naroda , in Ahmedabad , India , during the 2002 Gujarat riots . 97 Muslims were killed by a mob of approximately 5 @, @ 000 people , organised by the Bajrang Dal , a militant wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad , and supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party which was in power in the Gujarat State Government . The massacre at Naroda occurred during the bandh (strike protest) called by Vishwa Hindu Parishad ; a day after the Godhra train burning . During the post @-@ Godhra rioting , which lasted over 10 hours , during which the mob looted , stabbed , sexually assaulted , gang @-@ raped and burnt people individually and in groups . After the conflict , a curfew was imposed in the state and army troops were called in to contain further violence .

The communal violence at Naroda was deemed " the largest single case of mass murder " during the 2002 Gujarat riots ; it accounted for the greatest number of deaths during a single event . Survivors faced socio @-@ economic problems ; many were left homeless , orphaned and injured . A number of shrines were destroyed and many schools were adversely affected , cancelled exams or closed entirely . The surviving victims were given shelter in relief camps provided by both the state and central government , and efforts were begun to restore destroyed properties and shrines . The state government formed a " Gujarat state commission of inquiry " for citizens to have a forum in which to make recommendations and suggest reforms . Mainstream media criticised the Gujarat government 's handling of the riots ; it was remarked that a number of reports were exaggerated , and " inflammatory headlines , stories and pictures " were published , resulting in anti @-@ Muslim prejudice among the Hindu readership .

Allegations were made against the state police , state government and the chief minister Narendra Modi , citing that government authorities were involved and various police personnel played a role in the massacre : a number of eyewitnesses reported police officers favouring the mob by allegedly injuring or killing Muslims and damaging public and private property . All allegations were proved to be false and the government and police were cleared of wrongdoing by a Special Investigation Team . The initial report on the case was filed by the Gujarat police , accusing 46 people , all of whom the Special Court deemed unreliable . In 2008 , the Supreme Court of India formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate the case . In 2009 , the team submitted its report , which accused 70 people of wrongdoing , 61 of whom were charged . On 29 August 2012 , the Special Court convicted 32 people and acquitted 29 due to insufficient evidence . Among those convicted were Maya Kodnani ? former Cabinet Minister for Women and Child Development of Gujarat and former Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Naroda ? who was sentenced to 28 years imprisonment , and Bajrang Dal 's Babu Bajrangji , who received a life sentence .

= = Background = =

On 27 February 2002 , the Godhra train burning incident initiated a series of riots in Gujarat . Hindu pilgrims returning from Ayodhya on the Sabarmati Express train were attacked and the train , which had stopped at Godhra station , was set on fire causing the death of 58 Hindus including 25 women and 15 children ? activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Kar Sevaks . Following the attack , false rumours were spread by a senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader that Muslims had kidnapped three Hindu girls during the incident . Retaliatory attacks on Muslims began the same evening ; a number of incidents in which Muslims were attacked and killed were reported in various cities in Gujarat before the Naroda incident . The first attacks on the Muslim community occurred at Ahmedabad , where Hindu mobs began throwing stones and later burnt Gulbarg Society , a Muslim housing complex . The initial violence was believed to be instigated by the unsubstantiated rumours about Muslims kidnapping three Hindu girls . Violence spread to the largely rural districts of Panchmahal , Mehsana , Kheda , Junagadh , Banaskantha , Patan , Anand and Narmada the next day .

= = The massacre = =

At the time of the riots Naroda Patiya and Naroda Gam ? a suburb 1 kilometre (0 @. @ 62 mi) from Naroda Patiya ; both of which constitute the municipality of Naroda ? located in Gujarat 's largest city , Ahmedabad , had around 2 @, @ 000 daily wage @- @ earning Muslim inhabitants , and many immigrants from Karnataka and Maharashtra . On the evening of 27 February 2002 , Vishwa Hindu Parishad declared a statewide strike in response to the Godhra train burning incident , starting from 28 February . On the first day of the strike , a mob of approximately 5 @, @ 000 people , allegedly led by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Bajrang Dal , attacked and attempted to burn the entire Muslim community of Naroda Patiya . The rioting began at 9 am when the Noorani Mosque was destroyed by exploding liquified petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders .

Cases of hacking , looting , stabbing and sexual assaults including public gang @- @ rapes in which the victims were burnt , were reported . Many people were burnt alive , individually or in groups by " chasing them into huge pits " and setting fire to them using LPG cylinders . Burnt bodies were also thrown in a dry well . Women and girls were sexually assaulted , raped and killed by burning or by stabbing . Maya Kodnani , Babu Bajrangi and a few others supplied weapons to the crowd , and Suresh Chara and others raped and killed women . LPG cylinders were used to destroy a number of buildings in the residential and working areas . The massacre lasted for over 10 hours and finally a curfew was imposed in 27 towns and cities across Gujarat .

Most of the homes of Muslims in Naroda were burnt while Hindu homes remained undamaged . As the riots ended , it was estimated that around 125 people had been killed in the violence . After the rioting , 94 bodies were recovered ; three more people were reported missing and were later declared dead . More than 30 people were found injured . The dead ? all Muslims ? comprised 36 women , 35 children and 26 men . The incident is considered to be the " most gruesome of all post @- @ Godhra violent incidents " and " the largest single case of mass murders " , and claimed the highest number of lives of all the events during the Gujarat riots .

= = Aftermath = =

By the evening of 28 February , a curfew was imposed in 27 towns and cities of the state in an attempt to curb the violence . Over the next two days , Bharuch , Rajkot and later Surat were hit . Approximately 151 towns and 993 villages in 16 of the state 's 25 districts were affected by the post @- @ Godhra violence , which was particularly severe in six districts . The violence raged heavily between 28 February and 3 March 2002 , slowed briefly , then restarted on 15 March and continued until mid @- @ June . Northern and central Gujarat and the north @- @ eastern tribal belt ? which are closer to Godhra City ? were the worst affected while Saurashtra and Kutch remained relatively peaceful . 1 @, @ 000 army troops were flown in by the evening of 1 March to restore order . Intelligence officials alleged that the state government deliberately delayed the deployment . On 3 May , former Punjab police chief Kanwar Pal Singh Gill was appointed as security adviser to Modi . The Gujarat government transferred several senior police officers , who had taken steps to contain and investigate violent attacks , to administrative positions .

According to an official estimate , 1 @, @ 044 people were killed during the 2002 Gujarat riots ? 790 Muslims and 254 Hindus . Another 223 people were reported missing , 2 @, @ 548 were injured , 919 women were widowed and 606 children were orphaned . When people missing after the riots were declared dead after seven years , total deaths rose from 1 @, @ 044 to 1 @, @ 267 Unofficial estimates put the death toll closer to 5 @, @ 000 , with Muslims forming the majority . Police records say that 298 dargahs , 205 mosques , 17 temples and three churches were damaged during the riots .

Opposition parties and three coalition partners of the Bharatiya Janata Party @- @ led central government demanded the dismissal of Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi for failing to contain the violence , with some calling for the removal of Union Home Minister L. K. Advani as well . On 18 July 2002 , Modi asked the governor of Gujarat , Sunder Singh Bhandari , to dissolve the state assembly and call fresh elections . The Indian Election Commission ruled out early elections , citing the prevailing law and order situation , a decision the union government unsuccessfully appealed against in the Supreme Court . Elections were held in December and Modi returned to power .

== Rehabilitation of victims ==

Residents left homeless by the massacre were given shelter in relief camps constructed by the state government . On 16 March 2002 , the state government formed an all @-@ party committee consisting of 13 member and chaired by Bhandari to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims of the riots . Modi proposed to close the camps by the end of March but later decided not to close them . Under pressure from the opposition party , the Indian National Congress , the all @-@ party committee reached a consensus to implement rehabilitation measures suggested by various non @-@ governmental organisations which were to aid people to build houses .

== Effects on children and education ==

A number of children were killed , injured or orphaned by the violence . Organisations such as Citizens ' Initiative reported that the violence resulted in the disturbance of children 's studies and that there was a lack of counselling . Students at Gujarat University were unable to take examinations , which were cancelled due to the chances of disruption . While other schools in the state had to postpone or cancel exams , it was reported that some schools held examinations under police protection . It was also reported that many students were forced to leave their studies due to lack of funds or to earn a livelihood because they had lost income @-@ earning members of their families .

== Restoration of shrines ==

A number of darghas , including a 500 @-@ year @-@ old heritage masjid in Isanpur , and many mosques in Naroda were destroyed in the rioting . In 2003 , a petition was filed in Gujarat High Court by advocate Yusuf Muchhala on behalf of the Islamic Relief Committee , asking the court to direct the state to restore the religious shrines destroyed during the violence . In response to the petition , the Gujarat government stated that , " as a secular state , they cannot aid any community to re @-@ build shrines " . On 8 February 2012 , the High Court directed the state government to rebuild the shrines , and said it was the state 's " constitutional responsibility to restore the shrines " . The matter went to the Supreme Court , which refused to stay the order .

== Response by the government of Gujarat ==

The state government stated that the massacre was " a spontaneous reaction to the Godhra train carnage and the state government and ruling party had nothing to do with it " . On 1 March 2002 , Modi , talking about the violence , said that he tried everything to control the " riots resulting from the natural and justified anger of people " , " . Referring to the massacre , Modi said , " The five crore (50 million) people of Gujarat have shown remarkable restraint under grave provocation " .

The state government appointed a " Gujarat state commission of inquiry " to investigate the case and give recommendations . The committee was chaired by retired Gujarat High Court judge K.G. Shah . The formation of the committee raised concerns about delays in implementing recommendations because two similar reports about reforms , by the Reddy and Dave commissions , had been pending implementation since 1969 and 1985 respectively . The government of Gujarat presented its report to National Human Rights Commission of India , justifying its role and stating its findings about the massacre . The state government 's report did not mention the involvement of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal activists , despite statements by numerous eyewitnesses . The report also included , according to Human Rights Watch , a " grossly under @-@ counted " total of the shrines destroyed in the violence .

== Role played by media ==

Television and newspaper reports , particularly local Gujarati @-@ language media , carried graphic and at times sensationalised images and accounts of the Godhra train fire and Naroda Patiya massacre . This was the first major communal violence after the advent of satellite television in India . Television news channels identified the community of those involved in the violence , breaking a long @-@ standing practice and setting a precedent . Critical reporting on the Gujarat government 's handling of the situation helped bring about the Indian government 's intervention in controlling the violence . The Gujarat government banned television news channels that were critical of its response ; STAR News , Zee News , Aaj Tak , CNN and local stations were blocked . The Editorial Guild of India rejected the charge that graphic news coverage aggravated the situation , saying that the coverage exposed the horrors of the riots and the " supine if not complicit " attitude of the state , helping propel remedial action . The team also faulted Gujarati @-@ language newspapers Gujarat Samachar and the pro @-@ Hindutva Sandesh for distorted and provocative reporting . Rather than Naroda Patiya , the Godhra train fire was extensively covered until the subsequent violence and the presentation of the Union budget overtook it .

Modi said that the media had exaggerated while covering the extent of violence and criticised the media for " provoking the violence by naming the religion of victims " . Newspapers , particularly Sandesh , were reported by various organisations to have published " inflammatory headlines , stories and pictures " . A headline in Sandesh on 28 February 2002 read , " Avenge Blood With Blood " . After the massacre , when Muslims had returned from Hajj , Sandesh had published the headline , " Hindus Beware : Hajj pilgrims return with deadly conspiracy " , which caused terror among the returning Muslim community , and they were escorted by Army officials to their homes and were given protection to avoid attacks . A report by the People 's Union for Civil Liberties stated , " Major effect of media under long period has been to feed on the prevalent anti @-@ Muslim prejudices of its Hindu readership and provoke it further by sensationalizing , twisting , mangling and distorting news or what passes for it . "

In its 2007 expose The Truth : Gujarat 2002 - Tehelka report , the political weekly Tehelka released hidden camera footage of several members of the Bharatiya Janata Party , Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal admitting their role in the riots . While the report was criticised for being politically motivated , some newspapers said the revelations simply reinforced what was common knowledge . Several inaccuracies in the statements cast doubt on the sting operation . Bajrangi and Suresh Richard said that Narendra Modi visited Naroda Patiya a day after the massacre to thank them , but the official record shows that Modi did not visit Naroda Patiya . The Gujarat government blocked cable news channels from broadcasting the expose , an action which was criticised by the Editors Guild of India .

= = Attacks against women = =

A number of women and girls were raped , sexually assaulted and killed during the incident . Reports presented by Citizen 's Initiative , and Human Rights Watch stated that out of the 36 women killed in the Naroda Patiya massacre , most were sexually assaulted before their deaths ; surviving women also reported being assaulted . According to Human Rights Watch , women and girls were " brutally raped before being killed " . Most of the rapes took place in public , and the victims were then killed and their bodies burnt . Among the women surviving in the relief camp , many suffered the most bestial forms of sexual violence ? including rape , gang rape , mass rape , stripping , insertion of objects into their bodies and molestation . Citizens ' initiative 's report stated that " A majority of rape victims have been burnt alive . There is evidence of State and Police complicity in perpetuating crimes against women . No effort was made to protect women . No Mahila women police was deployed . State and Police complicity is continuing as , women survivors continue to be denied the right to file FIRs . There is no existing institutional mechanism in Gujarat through which women can seek justice " .

According to Human Rights Watch , the abdomens of three pregnant women were cut open and the foetus removed and thrown into a fire . In an incident that came to light in 2007 , Suresh Dedawala (Richard) alias Langado was caught on camera in a Tehelka sting operation talking to Bajrangi

about slitting the belly of pregnant Muslim Kausar Banu , removing her foetus and killing it with a sword .

= = Alleged involvement of police and SRP in the massacre = =

It was alleged that the police helped the mob against the Muslim community on the day of massacre . Evidence included complaints filed by victims ' family members which state that police officials fired bullets and helped the mob , resulting in the killings . It was also alleged that police guided the mob of rioters to residents ' hiding places . According to Human Rights Watch , the police did nothing as houses and people were burnt and , on the day of the violence , did not respond to telephone calls until the massacre ended . Numerous eyewitnesses saw police aiming tear gas shells at , and firing upon , Muslim youths who tried to defend themselves or others . There also have been allegations that police themselves burnt houses and looted . In the violence , the extensive use of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was reported , which was cited as evidence of the involvement of officials because of easy access to it .

A report based on eyewitness statements submitted by the Citizens ' Initiative to the National Human Rights Commission of India states that the State Reserve Police (SRP) , a force of specially trained emergency police , were seen chasing the victims and helping the rioters rather than calming the situation . According to Human Rights Watch , some victims said that they were able to handle the crowd but when police and SRP joined in , it became difficult as the police sided with the rioters and fired on Muslim residents . The state government denied these allegations ; Modi said that police fired to " contain outbreaks of violence " and added that they had " mowed down people to quell the violence " . The Special Investigation Team also defended the role played by officials and said that everything was done to stop the violence .

= = Allegations against the state government and Narendra Modi = =

Human Rights Watch and other Indian human rights groups alleged that the Gujarat government authorities and police helped the mob on the day of violence in Naroda . Human Rights Watch found evidence that the state government helped the mob in the attacks because action by police and other officials was delayed and " less effective " . A Bharatiya Janata Party insider alleged to Human Rights Watch that Narendra Modi and state government were involved in the riots , stating ; " Insiders in the Bharatiya Janta Party admit that the police were under instructions of Narendra Modi administration not to act firmly " . Celia Dugger of the New York Times reported that witnesses were " dismayed by the lack of intervention from local police " , who often " watched the events taking place and took no action against the attacks on Muslims and their property " .

Babu Bajrangi , the Bajrang Dal leader that was one of the main organisers of the massacre , has stated that he called the State 's Home minister Gordhan Zadaphia at the end of the day and told him everything that had happened . Zadaphia is said to have advised him to leave the State and go into hiding . He also stated that a State Reserve Police officer that made a statement against him was promoted by Narendra Modi , which " silenced him . " Maya Kodnani , a BJP legislator described as the " kingpin of the violence " by Judge Yagnik , was later appointed as a Minister for Women and Child Welfare in Narendra Modi 's government . Cell phone records showed that she was in touch with the Chief Minister 's Office , the Home Minister as well as top police officials during the massacres . The Chief Minister 's office was also in touch with other rioters Tanmay Mehta , Sanjay Bhavsar and Anil Mukim .

Modi and the state government denied any involvement in the riots . On 10 April 2012 , the Special Investigation Team cleared Modi and the government in the riot cases , stating that , " Law and order review meetings were held by Modi and all the things was done to control the situation ... the Army was called on time to contain the communal violence . Modi was busy with steps to control the situation , establishment of relief camps for riot victims and also with efforts to restore peace and normalcy . "

An affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court on the basis of a report on testimony of suspended IPS

officer Sanjiv Bhatt that Modi ordered top police officers not to take active actions in the riots . Bhatt said that on the night of 27 February 2002 , Modi said that " Hindus must be allowed to carry out retaliatory violence against Muslims . " The report filed by Raju Ramachandran , a Supreme Court lawyer and an amicus curiae , alleged that Modi " gave instructions to top police officers to go slow on rioters " . On 7 May 2012 , Ramachandran said that Modi can be prosecuted under sections 153 A (1) (a) & (b) , 153 B (1) , 166 and 505 (2) of the Indian Penal Code for promoting enmity among different groups during the 2002 Gujarat riots , including the Naroda incident . The Special Investigation Team criticised the amicus report for relying heavily on Bhatt 's testimony , who according to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) was an " unreliable witness " as he remained silent for nine years . The report was rejected by the team and according to the SIT , " No case can be made out against Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in connection with the 2002 communal riots under any of the Sections of the Indian Penal Code mentioned by him [Ramachandran] " .

= = Investigations = =

= = = Initial investigation = = =

As the investigations began , some victims reported that the Gujarat Police " didn 't cooperate well " and declined to lodge a First Information Report against some people . Later the police filed all complaints and presented their first report . The police accused and arrested 46 persons in the case ; however , the investigation was criticised by the special court and was considered " unreliable as the investigator 's propriety in recording the statements had itself been rebutted . "

= = = Special Investigation Team report = = =

In 2008 , the Supreme Court of India directed that the case be transferred from police investigation to a committee appointed by the court , the Special Investigation Team , because the police had become one of the riot cases . The team was led by ex @-@ Central Bureau of Investigation director R. K. Raghavan , and the case was the sixth Gujarat riots case assigned to them for investigation . Taking into account the findings about telephone records of various activists , Kodnani and other major leaders were included in the report for the first time . The Special Investigation Team 's findings added 24 more names to the 46 people arrested by the police . Before the trial began , 6 of the accused died . In 2009 the trial started , during which three of the accused died , thus the final report covered 61 people .

The report said that Kodnani , Bajrangi and other leaders had led violence as well as " instigating the mob " . Kodnani 's telephone records revealed that she had made calls to the Chief Minister 's Office (CMO) on the day of the massacre and that her telephone was located at places where the violence occurred . She had also contacted numerous police officials , especially K.K. Mysorewala , the police inspector in charge of Naroda at the time of the massacre . Her logs also revealed that she had received calls from the CMO and other police officers , the reasons for which are unknown .

= = Trial = =

The court examined 327 witnesses , including eyewitnesses , victims , doctors , police personnel , government officials , and forensic experts . The special public case was prosecuted by Akhil Desai and Gaurang Vyas .

= = = The judgement = = =

The first verdict in the case was handed down on 29 August 2012 by Judge Jyotsna Yagnik . The special trial court convicted Maya Kodnani , the sitting Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Naroda and

former Minister for Women and Child Development of Gujarat , and Bajrang Dal politician Babu Bajrangji under Indian Penal Code Section 120 B (criminal conspiracy) and 302 (murder) . It also convicted 30 other people of murder , criminal conspiracy and other criminal charges , and acquitted 29 accused , giving them the benefit of the doubt as there was lack of evidence against them . Kodnani was the first woman , MLA and minister to be convicted in the Gujarat riot case . Suresh Dedawala (Richard) alias Langado and accomplices were convicted of rape and murder along with accomplices .

The prosecution requested the death penalty for all the convicts . Sentencing took place on 31 August : Kodani was given a 28 @-@ year prison term , and received two sentences ; the first for 10 years under Indian Penal Code Section 326 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and the second for 18 years under Section 302 (murder) and others . Her sentences are set to run consecutively , making a total of 28 years . Bajrangji received life imprisonment . Of the rest of the 30 convicted , 22 were sentenced to a minimum of 14 years and 7 to a minimum of 21 years in prison ; they included Naresh Chara , Morli Sindhi , Haresh Rathod , Suresh Langado , Premchand Tiwari , Manojbhai Sindhi Kukrani and Bipin Panchal . One of the convicted , Suresh alias Shahjad Nekalkar , absconded and his sentencing was deferred .

= = = Comments about Kodnani and the initial investigation = = =

Kodnani said that she had never been to Naroda and had become a " victim of politics " . Judge Yagnik described her as the " kingpin of the violence " , and as the 37 months of trials ended , the court said in a statement that Kodnani had received help from the state government , and efforts had been made to avoid her name appearing on the list of accused . The statement said , " Kodnani was tremendously favoured by the then investigating agencies (before the Supreme Court @-@ appointed Special Investigation Team took over) . All care , at the cost of the duty of the investigating officer and even the interest of the victims , was taken to see to it that Kodnani 's involvement does not come on the books . This , in fact , comes in the way to believe that Kodnani was ever a victim of any politics . "

In the verdict , the special court criticised the initial investigation and the police for " not doing any policing during the 2002 riots and then deliberately conducting poor investigations . " The verdict said that statements of witnesses recorded by the Gujarat police were " unreliable as the investigator 's propriety in recording the statements had itself been rebutted . " The special court judge also criticised Mysorewala 's actions in investigation , and said that " Mysorewala and his force were totally inactive on all fronts and in every aspect . " The court added that : " No doubt , it was an elephantine task to investigate the kind of crimes , but then it cannot be believed that the senior Investigating Officers , having experience , do not know what should be the priorities in such kind of investigation . But , it seems that they must have been over @-@ shadowed by some element "

= = = Responses to verdict = = =

Residents in the city , including the victims , appreciated the judgement and celebrated . Digvijay Singh of the Indian National Congress welcomed the verdict and statement of Modi 's role in the riots and said , " Now it is proved that ministers and officials of BJP were involved in Gujarat riots and all this happened under the guidance of Modi ... can any minister (take part in riots) do this without the support of the Chief Minister ? " The president of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee , Arjun Modhwadia , said on Twitter : " Naroda Patiya : justice delayed not denied. thousands behind the bars , more awaiting. but will the law be able to touch the ' beneficiary ' ? " Modi , in response to the sentencing of Kodnani ? who was a minister in his cabinet ? refused to apologise . Modi said his government had played no role in the riots , and that , " If Modi has sinned , then Modi should be hanged . But even after trying sincerely to save many lives , some people want to bad @-@ mouth me due to political reasons , then I can 't answer them . " Jaynarayan Vyas , spokesman for the cabinet of the Gujarat government , said that it was not involved and was not

responsible for the actions of Kodnani : " Ms. Kodnani , a practising gynaecologist , was not a Minister at the time of the massacre and was only an MLA , and her individual action could not be construed as a ' cumulative responsibility of the Cabinet ' . "

= = Citation = =