



Presidential Address

By

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(In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful)

Al-Hamdu li Allahi wa Nasta'yeenuhu wa Nastaghfiruhu wa Na'oozu bi Allahi min Shroori Anfusina wa min Sayyi'aati A'malina. Man Yahdihi Allahu fa la Mudilla lahu wa man Yudlilhu fa la Hadiya lahu. Wa Nashhadu an la 'Ilaha illa Allahu Wahdahu la Sharika lahu, wa Nashhadu anna Sayyidina wa Maulana Muhammadan 'Abduhu wa Rasooluhu Salla Allahu Ta'aala 'alaihi wa 'ala Aalihi wa Ashabihi wa Dhurriyyatihi Ajma'yeen. Amma Ba'd.

Respected Members of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, Distinguished 'Ulema and Intellectuals of the Millat!

First of all I shall like to pay my thanks to you for selecting this humble man to chair this grand session in spite of all of his weakness and shortcomings. This is a fact that I am not capable of discharging this great responsibility. I agreed to carry on this heavy burden only because of your benign expectations from me and for protecting the interests of the country and the Millat as well as the objectives of Jamiat-Ulama. May Allah, the Exalted, grant us His conformation in discharging this responsibility! Amen.

This is a great generosity and superfluity of Allah, the Exalted, that today, the caravan of the servants of this 90-years old Jama'at of Islamic Millat has camped in this Indian city that bears its unique

history and is deemed its own instance with regard to its culture, nobleness, Hindu-Muslim unity and knowledge-friendly ethos. With reference to Osmania University, Idarah-e-Adabiyat, Char Minar, Idarah-e-Ma'arifun No'maniyyah, Madrasa Nizamiyyah, Urdu Academy, religious Madrasas and various educational, cultural and civilizing institutions, it possesses long historical traditions. In spite of thousands of transformations and venomous winds of western and polytheistic civilization, remnants of Islamic civilization are seen in every nook and corner of this city even today. No need to tell you that Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind (JUH) has been associated with Andhra Pradesh and Hyderabad since olden times. Its 5th general session was held in Kokinad in January 1924 and 17th general session in April 1951. Both these meetings were chaired by Sheikhul Islam Maulana Syed Husain Ahmad Madani. Recently, since last five or six decades, especially ever since 1973, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind's extension to Southern India, especially to Andhra Pradesh, has also been effected, as it has been done in other parts of the country. When Hazrat Ameer-e-Karavan Fida-e-Millat (May Allah shower His Mercy on him) was elected JUH president, its branches were established at hundreds of places and districts, which are now busy in serving the country and the Millat with full vigour in accordance with their capabilities and all praises to Allah, Jamiat-Ulama enjoys full confidence of public and elites. All this is the outcome of tireless labour of devoted servants. May Allah, the Exalted, accept their services out of His generosity and superfluity!

It is not hidden from you people that under which delicate conditions the responsible members of the Jama'at placed the heavy burden of the incumbency of its president on the shoulder of this weakling. Today, the country's circumstances, especially with reference to Muslim Ummah, are very fragile at both domestic and global levels.

Domestic Situation

Gentlemen!

About three and a half years earlier, 28th general session of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind was held in Delhi on May, 28-29, 2005, under such circumstances that secular forces had assumed power in the center after as long time and this hope was kindled that the prejudiced attitude being adopted continually against minorities, especially Muslims, during previous years of non-secular governments shall subside, at least to some extent, and it was believed that the leading party of the UPA government, the Congress Party, will try to mend its ways taking lead from the lessons of the past. Accordingly, these hopes appeared taking concrete form during early days of the government. For instance, it was for the first time after independence that on demand of the former JUH president respected Fida-e-Millat Hazrat Maulana Syed As'ad Madani Saheb (R), may Allah fill his grave with radiance, the honourable Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh set up a committee in the leadership of Justice Rajinder Sachar to review educational and economic position of Muslims and after research and investigation and deliberations, the committee repeated almost all those very same facts in its report towards which JUH had been drawing government's attention for a number of years. In a way, the committee had officially endorsed and corroborated all recommendations and proposals of JUH. Similarly, Justice Ranga Nasth Mishra submitted his most comprehensive report with the government. In this report too, appropriate measures were recommended to the government, after narrating the pathetic condition of Muslims. Many tears could have been spared had the government honestly implemented the proposals of both these commissions. But it is quite distressing to say that the hopes initially tied with the UPA government withered away with the passage of time and now, the 29th general session is being held under such circumstances that it is last stage of UPA government and elections are knocking the doors

but the pile of problems is as usual and communal atmosphere is deteriorating from bad to worse, communal forces are spreading unrest and lawlessness from place to place, terrorists incidents are continuing, terrorism is being perpetrated even on pretense of stopping terrorist activities but government has completely failed in bridling them and the circle of violence and sabotage has reached to other minorities in several states, transcending Muslims, because of which the country's honour has become spotted across the globe but the government is still unable to ban the organizations spreading disorder and unrest as well as hatred.

Condemnation of Terrorist Incidents and Terrorist Action on their Pretense

Dear Gentlemen!

Presently, the gravest problems at present are incidents of terrorism and action on their pretense. We condemn all type of terrorism in unequivocal words. This is regretful that whereas destructive activities of mistaken elements are being depicted as associated with Islam, the image of Islam, the Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.), the Qur'an and Islamic history is being distorted further on pretext of arguing against terrorism and it is being written openly that Islam has to be wiped out in order to eliminate terrorism. The Qur'an, Hadith and Madrasas are being termed as 'source of terrorism'. Mujahideen's history is being linked with terrorism. Big national newspapers in various languages are publishing and circulating all this. Recently, two authorities of BJP who are Rajya Sabha members, one of whom has worked as a minister in Uttar Pradesh, attempted to target the Qur'an, Hadiths, Islamic history and Fiqh on pretext of targeting terrorism, even as their objections have been retorted thousands of times in different manners. In 'World Peace, Anti-Terrorism Conference' held under auspices of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind on Delhi's historic Ram Lila Ground, lacs of persons had avowed to struggle against terrorism.

An anti-terrorism fatwa from Darul ‘Uloom Deoband was read to the public there. What could be the objective behind reiterating the allegation (of terrorism) in spite of all this?

Islam and World Peace

This has been enunciated with full vigour time and again that Islam is the flag-bearer and preacher of world peace. Innumerable Hadiths have expressly exhorted to deal with the creatures of Allah with compassion and treat them gently. One of those Hadiths says: Have mercy on the earth-dwellers Allah will treat you mercifully. One tradition narrates that Allah does not deal with him with mercy who does not treat people with mercy.

Respect for Human Lives

In Islam, extreme respect is accorded to human lives. Killing any human being unrightfully is a major sin according to Islam, which declares the murder of a single person at par with the murder of all human beings. Respecting the life of a man, whether he is a Muslim or a non-Muslim, is a must. It has been said in the Holy Qur’an unequivocally: Do not kill him whom Allah, the Exalted, has declared forbidden.

Dealings with Non-Muslims

Celebrated Listeners!

Opponents of Islam propagandize that there is no leeway in Islam for other religions, whereas this is only an allegation having no connection with reality. The truth is that in view of Islam, all non-Muslims of the world are segregated in two categories:

- i) Those who entertain hatred and enmity against Muslims, create hindrances for them in practicing Deen (the religion, the way of life) and leave no stone unturned in torturing Muslims. So, Islam really does not allow befriending such

enemies because apprehensions of loss to the community and the Millat galore in such a friendship.

- ii) Others are those non-Muslims who have no dispute with Muslims. Neither they interfere in Deen nor Muslims suspect any danger from their side. So it is a part of basic Islamic teachings to pay courtesy to them as a human being. The Gracious Qur'an itself has explained about both these sections and relations with them in following words.

Allah commands:

Allah does not forbid you to be kind and equitable to those who have neither made war on your religion nor driven you from your homes. Allah loves the equitable.

Allah only forbids you to make friends with those who have fought against you on account of your religion and driven you from your homes, or abetted others to do so. Those who make friends with them are wrongdoers.

(Al-Mumtahana:8-9)

The verses of the Gracious Qur'an in which orders to kill *Kuffar* (infidels) are revealed are concerned with those infidels who combat against with Islam and Muslims, and do not imply at all that an infidel should be slain wherever he is found. Therefore, the responsibility of protection of the lives and property of non-Muslims living in an Islamic government falls on the government in the same way as the responsibility of a Muslim's protection falls on it. The Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.) has sternly warned against harassing any non-Muslim citizen. He has proclaimed:

“Anyone who kills a Dimmi (protected non-Muslim citizen) will not be able even to smell the fragrance of the Paradise, though it becomes identifiable from a distance of 40 years.”

(Reported by Bukhari, Mishkat: 299)

Demonstration of Philanthropy In the State of War Distinguished Gentlemen!

This is the pinnacle of Islamic philanthropy that it teaches caring for human rights even in the state of war. Islam takes utmost care to see that the ambit of war does not extend to unblemished persons and that the confrontation remains confined to the extent of the guilty. Islam has taught to respect agreements concluded with enemies to maximum possible extent and entire Islamic history is a witness to the fact that Muslims never showed languor in implementing regional and international agreements whereas the history of the armies confronting them has been spotted with revolt and breach of promises. Showing its magnanimity, Islam always dealt with enemies with human sympathy and tolerance. The great event of the conquest of Makkah is a glaring example of this attitude, when the eyes of the heaven witnessed this amazing scene that the benefactor of humanity, the pride of both worlds, the compassion for all worlds, Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (S.A.W.) was announcing general amnesty for the same very enemies who had been his blood-thirsty enemies till yesterday. When Abu Sufyan (R.A.), the man who led several wars against Muslims before the conquest of Makkah, embraced Islam on that occasion, boosting his morale, the Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.) announced, "Whosoever enters in the house of Abu Sufyan (R.A.), he is given refuge." But Abu Sufyan (R.A.) said, "How many people can my house occupy?" Then, the Prophet (S.A.W.) announced, "Whoever goes to Ka'bah, he is also in peace." Abu Sufyan (R.A.) again said, "How many people can Ka'bah occupy?" Then, the Prophet (S.A.W.) announced, "Whoever goes to Masjid-e-Haram, he is also in peace." Abu Sufyan (R.A.) deemed even this much too little. Then, the Prophet (S.A.W.) finally announced, "Whoever sits inside closing his doors, he is also in peace." Listening this Abu Sufyan (R.A.) got satisfied.

(Al-Bidayah wa Al-Nihayah: 4/686)

Prohibition on Killing Women and Children in War Celebrated Audience!

This is an Islamic teaching that the man should not become so much obsessed by war mania that he would start blindly making anyone coming in his way the target of his aggression. Instead, it is necessary to maintain so much sense even in the state of war that one is able to recognize who is standing opposing him. Those who are not combating or are weak and blameless, for instance women, children, aged, or are busy with concentration in their worship forgetting the world and everything in it, they should not be interfered. Killing such unblemished persons is a serious crime according to Islam. Hazrat Abdullah bin Umar (R.A.) narrates: On the occasion of some combat, the Prophet (S.A.W.) saw the corpse of a dead woman who had been killed, so, the Prophet (S.A.W.) prohibited killing women and children. (Muslim Sharif 2/84, Musnaf Ibn Abi Shaibah 6/486)

And it is found in a tradition that at that the time of departure of a Jihadi army, the first caliph Ameerul Mu'mineen Sayyidina Abu Bakar (R.A.) gave ten instructions to the commander: (1) Do not kill any child, (2) Do not raise your hands against any woman, (3) Do not kill any old aged person, (4) Do not cut down any fruit-bearing tree, (5) Do not slay any she-goat or she-camel in vain. However, if it is needed for eating purposes, then, there is no impediment, (6) Do not mutilate any dead one, (7) Do not incinerate any person's garden, (8) Do not destroy any garden by flooding it, (9) Do not show cowardice, and (10) Do not misappropriate the booty. (Musnaf Ibn Abi Shaibah 6/487)

Further, Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas narrates: While dispatching an army, the gracious prophet (S.A.W.) used to instruct: Do not kill the monks busy in worship in their huts or hermitages. (Musnaf Ibn Abi Shaibah 6/488)

It became known from these details that Islam does not favour excesses against unblemished persons in any stage and naturally, the

Islamic teachings in this regard are guarantors of the survival and protection of humanity.

Therefore, the people who make the blameless human beings, old men, children and women the target of their destructive activities and terrorism, they cannot be friends of the country or a Rashtrawadis (nationalists) or Jihadis instead they are wholly strife-mongers. Those who are targeting Islam and the Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.) by terming their terrorism and destructive activities as 'Jihad' and the strife-mongers as 'Jihadis', they themselves are terrorists and strife-mongers. By doing so, they are wrongly providing ground and a basis to strife-mongers and are working out the criminal process of spreading anarchy in the society by giving religious sanctity to a destructive activity and by associating with sabotage a constructive process like Jihad, which is actually a means of defending the weak and oppressed. This is a deplorable conspiracy to give sustenance to terrorism by including the sabotaging persons in the peace-loving, normal stream, so that by targeting a particular community in this way that community could be pushed back to wall after isolating it from normal stream.

Investigation Agencies, Police, Administration and Mistaken Role of Media

Leaders of the Country and the Community!

How pitiful, it is that all secret agencies, police, administration and electronic and print media are involved in this reprehensible publicity campaign and prejudiced practice. Whereas the stories being floated in the media by these agencies, police and investigative institutions affect the process of investigation adversely, hatred and prejudice against a community also spreads in the society and the community's image gets distorted. On account of this, hindrances are also coming the pat of this community in joining the systems of the country as its citizens. We honestly feel that honest, judicious

and impartial attempts are not being made by these departments for eliminating terrorism, a state that is a curse for a civilized society and an enemy of peace and progress.. Instead of meeting their responsibilities, these departments, whether governmental or semi governmental, are merely carrying out formalities in order to escape from the hatred of the masses and the pressure of the situation. They simply project a few names to shut peoples' mouths, whereas they persistently fail in arresting really guilty persons and culprits. Police, administration, secret investigative agencies and electronic and print media—all of them are involved in it. They already have a pre-fabricated ring that is fitted in only one community's neck from time to time. Creating such an atmosphere where the accused could not arrange any attorney for pleading and defending their cases, as it has been done by some Bar Associations in Uttar Pradesh, is a serious matter. More than two-dozen major bomb explosions and incidents of terrorism and destructive activities have been carried out inside the country from 2000 till 2008 but the country could not know properly so far that whose hands are really behind these sabotaging and terrorist incidents. Secret agencies, investigative institutions and police have got a list of certain organizations whose names are put forth within a short while after the incident. Whether bomb blasts occur in a Masjid or a Dargah or a Math or a Mandir or a fair or a market, names from only one community are publicized each time whereupon that community's members are harassed and arrested and professional career of its educated youths is ruined. Government agencies and police departments have failed in tracing real culprits of terrorist attack on Indian parliament (December 13, 2001), five blasts in Mumbai (December 6, 2002, January 27, May 13, August 25, 2003, July 11, 2006), Malegaon (September 8, 2006), Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad (May 18, 2007), Babri Masjid (July 28, 2005), Akshar Daham (September 24, 2002), Samjhauta Express (February 8, 2007), serial bombings in Uttar Pradesh (November

23, 2007), and bomb blasts at other places like Ahmadabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Delhi etc. in the months of May, June July, August and September 2008. The real cause of their failure is indolence and lack of honest and impartial efforts. They treat accused like criminals. Such treatment is meted out to both blameless and suspected detainees which is totally in defiance of human rights, though national and international courts have banned such treatment even with offenders. Incidents of encounter are on increase in the country. Many encounters proved to be fake ones. Even courts have punished for that. Police and related agencies arrest and present unblemished persons too, either to show their better performance or under pressure from extremist and communal organizations. Recently, in the month of September, many doubts and queries surfaced in connection with Jamia Nagar encounter case that need to be clarified in order to remove those doubts and cleanse public mind. Such doubts prop up only because the spotlessness in the character of our police and related agencies, transparency in actions and impartiality are not observed.

Media's Role

In this connection, media's role also falls under divergence from their responsibility. Media's task is to present the happenings in the society objectively and not to become in their cases or to deliver verdict by posing themselves as jury. Deciding a case like a judge is not media's task. If an accused is made an offender in the very first stage, anarchy and dissension spreads in the society, which open the path of violence and injustice. One more dangerous blunder is done in that the wrong of an individual is projected as a whole community's crime and is linked with their religion. This is a serious aspect of the case that further vitiates the situation and the ambit of hatred and prejudice becomes more and more wider in the society. Biased role based on prejudice and hatred is coming to fore in very

clear shades in connection with bomb blasts in Jaipur, Ahmadabad, Bangalore and Delhi. The attitude of presenting information furnished by police with much spice and with reference to secret agencies is emerging fast, which has pushed the existence of a whole community in jeopardy.

Demand From Government

In view of the above discussion, we demand the union and central governments that transparency must be observed in investigation process and the men guilty of destructive activities must be produced after investigating the case with complete honesty and impartiality. We have no sympathy with criminals, irrespective of their religion. We only want that unblemished persons would not become the target of oppression and excesses, and careers of educated persons of a community would not be destroyed by creating the atmosphere of hatred in a wrong way. The government should devise procedures to stop oppression and injustices. There are many such individuals who have been exonerated by courts but because of delay in putting their cases in the court, such persons have to pass several years in a jail, which spoils their lives as well as their career. Many highly educated Muslim youths were arrested without any substantial evidence in connection with recent explosions and released later but they became spotted and defamed because of which their services lapsed and concerned departments are not prepared to reinstate them. The governments should also work out some remedy for this situation.

Appeal To Media

We appeal to media to distinguish between an accused and a convict. Citizens of a country have got certain rights. Protection of their lives is essential. Saving the blameless from punishment of what he did not do is a problem that is greater than letting the culprits go scot-free. Therefore, we rightly expect on the part of the esteemed

people associated with the media that they will not present any accused as a convict before the court delivers the verdict, albeit they are free to present the truth.

Appeal To Muslims

Revered Gentlemen!

In the light of the bitter facts mentioned above, we are to review our responsibilities and appraise ourselves very sincerely. On one side, we need to popularize peaceful Islamic teachings at all levels and communicate them to the members of all classes and on the other hand, we need to ensure that our own practice depicts Islamic hue. In an atmosphere where Islam is being targeted all around, our responsibilities get enhanced further. If we will not put Shari'ah in practice at this time, we will be deemed as people who ruined Islam more than the others did. Every aspect of our lives should reflect the teachings of Islam regarding truthfulness, honesty, peacefulness, transparency in dealings, good morals and humility and modesty so that those teachings get highlighted.

Be it known that we condemn all type of terrorism and believe that no true Muslim could be a terrorist. This is our duty to remain steadfast on the path of truth and righteousness and not deprecate Islam by way of any step we take or any practice we conduct. Only our right conduct can become correct rejoinder to hostile propaganda.

Appeal to Compatriots

We appeal to our brethren countrymen that we want to submit that terrorism is not a problem concerning any particular community or religion or persons associated with it, rather it is a problem and a curse for the whole country, all communities and the peaceful civilized society, which we have to eliminate jointly, irrespective of

our religious and communal differences. All are affected by the ill effects of terrorism. Protection to the lives and property of all human beings is necessary. The atmosphere of peace, provision of necessities of life, education, pure water and arrangements for ensuring public health, all these amenities are needed. Terrorism is a big hurdle in obtaining all these resources. Promotion of capitalist system has a great role in boosting terrorism. It is also being encouraged through various means and ploys to make sure that the deprived and the oppressed would not pay attention towards the game of capitalists to loot the wealth of nations, especially of this country, and drop it in the hands of a few capitalists. Hands of the same powers, who have given birth to terrorism, are working behind unrestrained increase in inflation, suicides by farmers and destruction of small industries. All of us will have to ponder over it sincerely. Circumstances of terrorism have been created by promoting injustice and deprivation and, thereafter, efforts are being made to maintain the same state and usurp country's resources by publicizing terrorism at global level. Peoples belonging to all religions and communities are the hit-mark of their economic and political campaign. Therefore, it is necessary that no incident of terrorism and destructive activities is allowed to be coloured in communal tints, as both Hindus and Muslims have practically shown in Varanasi and Jaipur by demonstrating communal unity and harmony. Humiliating defeat of terrorists and sabotaging forces lies in our alliance and joint struggle.

Declaration of Stance

Finally, we declare from this stage with full conviction that Islam, the religion of peace, the Prophet of Islam (S.A.W.), the prophet of peace and human values and the Holy Qur'an are the sources of peace and goodness. Relating them with terrorism is worst terrorism in itself. We condemn those elements in strong words who name Islam for terrorism and also condemn those satanic forces strongly

who defame Islam, its prophet and the Gracious Qur'an and term them as 'fountains of terrorism'.

Activities of Destructive, Communal and Terrorist Elements

We cannot stop without expressing this reality before the men in power, union and state governments and secular democratic forces that terrorism has very profound relations with communalism, the hatred and prejudice shown by communal elements and the destructive activities. Communalism should not be seen in isolation with terrorism. We oppose 'reaction' theory, as a wrong cannot be corrected by another wrong. But we will surely say that injustices, deprivation and biased practices definitely promote hopelessness, anger and anguish, which are expressed sometimes in forms detrimental to the country and the community. The oppression and barbarity, plunder and killing, murder and destruction, and loot and incineration being perpetrated by Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, and other separatist and extremist people against religious and linguistic minorities in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Orissa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and other places, all that is shameful and damaging for any civilized country but union and state governments are appearing to be a failure in hampering the destructive activities of extremist elements. These destructive forces are being compromised by showing dilly-dalliance in union and state governments' policy, desisting decisive action against them and raising unnecessary points, on account of which they are intensifying their attacks and challenging the governments to dare ban them, claiming that the government will be ruined in case of the ban. The same state of differences and indecision was also seen in the recent session of National Integration Council. Such a situation is damaging for the secular democratic character of the country. Extreme actions are being taken against the individuals and

organizations belonging to minority community merely on the basis of far-fetched doubts, whereas the activities of communal organizations, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Sri Ram Sena, Hindu Yuva Ahini, Hindu Jagaran Manch and Hindu Munani, are continuing openly. They openly narrate and accept responsibility for their crimes in electronic media. There are public announcements, in both writings and utterances, and open invitations for formation of suicidal squads and induction of volunteers in those squads. They were killed in Nandere, Prabhani, Tamil Nadu, Thane, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh while assembling bombs. Huge quantities of bomb-making materials and explosives have been recovered from their possession. Explosives were found in their factories. But neither the government and administration nor the media took seriously the events of Jalna, Poorna, Tan Kashi, Pattor and Rewa. Government agencies, investigative institutions and media have shown cool attitude in all these incidents. Neither media is raising any queries in this connection nor any effective investigations are being conducted. After all, what sort of democracy is it? A survey published in 'Outlook' shows that 69 per cent city-dwellers favour ban on Bajrang Dal and 70 per cent of them have taken their activities as bomb-making as terrorism. 77 per cent of responders say the government is soft on Hindu terrorists while 86 per cent deem the activities of Bajrang Dal unpardonable. Yet the government is unable to take a decision to ban the organization. It is very recent that bomb-makers were killed in Kanpur. The similarity in 6 April Nandere explosion in 2006 and 24 August Kanpur explosion in 2008 and governments' practice of indolence and slackness have added to disorder and violence in this country. Narender Kodse and Himanshu Pandey associated with Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal were killed in Nandere bomb-blast and the case was handed over to Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) on May 4, 2006. The charge sheet filed

by ATS clearly says that Kodse and Pandey were making bombs with the intention to target the places of worship of Muslims. If investigations of bomb blasts in Makkah Masjid of Hyderabad, Malegaon Mosque, Ajmer Shrine and other places were conducted in this light, it would have been possible to reach up culprits. Two activists of Bajrang Dal were killed in Kanpur. The persons who have been nabbed while making bombs and from whose possession bomb-making materials have been recovered; all of them are reported to be linked with non-Muslim communal organizations. According to a senior police officer, the persons who exploded bomb in RSS office in Tamil Nadu were Hindu Munnani activists. Sabotage and terrorism in name of 'Rashtriyata' (nationalism) cannot be allowed in any civilized society. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has always been demanding that the activities of all organizations spreading extremism, disorder and unrest and terrorism should be banned. By demanding the same, the said survey as well as political parties and peace-loving Indian citizens and organizations have also vindicated and endorsed Jamiat's stance. Besides condemning Hindu communalism, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has also strongly condemned Muslim communalism. Communalism and terrorism are each other's collaborators. Communalism paves the way for terrorism and provides ground to it to move ahead. Days ago, huge quantities of explosives were recovered from Vashi, Thane Ghaziabad but it was also ignored. As long as this situation continues in the country, peace and progress and communal harmony cannot be established in the country. Considering this, we demand the union and state governments to take effective steps against destructive powers by using its will power in order to establish law and order.

Communal Riots and Law-Making for Their Prevention

Intellectuals and Sympathizers of the Country and the Community!

Communal riots are a serious problem for progress and peace in the country. Communal riots constitute an ugly bleak spot on the forehead of the country. Biggest disdains and losses have accrued to the country because of blood-shedding communal riots. After independence, more than 45,000 communal riots have occurred, more than 23,000 major ones among them. Gujarat riot has been biggest Muslim-killer riot after 2000 in which two to tree thousand Muslims are supposedly killed. Slump had come in riots after that but since a few moons back, a wave of riots has been unleashed. Both the wave of terrorism and the wave of riots are being moved simultaneously. Both target minorities, especially Muslims. A campaign is being run to eliminate them at both financial and existential levels. Planned efforts are on to make them totally backward economically, educationally and socially, and throw them out of even the last row in the race for life. Although, the greater part of the country's population is peace-loving but the troublemakers are an organized lot. They enjoy the support of communal organizations, administration and police. It is evident from the history and the methodology of post-independence riots that they intend to completely dislodge Muslim minority and labour class. Riots are usually perpetrated in places growing industrially and economically. Besides Moradabad, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bhagalpur, Ranchi, Raurkela, Jabalpur, Indore, Bhopal, Aligarh, Ahmadabad, Surat, Malegaon, Jaipur, Firozabad, Agra, Banaras, Mau, Kanpur, Bhiwandi, Lucknow, Jamshedpur and Meerut, there are thousands of places like Bahraich, Gonda, Dhauliyā, Nasik and other small towns and cities that are being targeted with riots. Detailed narrations of riots perpetrated in the country can be seen in the reports of public and executive body meetings of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind. In the surveys conducted

for rehabilitation of people affected in these riots, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind found that police and administrative staff happen to be supporters and collaborators of rioters and plunderers and that only Muslims suffered heavy losses of life and substance. According to a government report, the incidents of riots and violence that occurred after 2000 and till date clearly reveal that on part of government, no effective steps were taken to banish communal hatred and violence, and that the waves of communal prejudice and hate have been raging in the society with minor differences. According to the report, greatest number of the incidents of communal riots and violence occurred in Maharashtra and greatest number of killings in Gujarat. During last years, 6464 incidents of communal violence were recorded till September last, of which 1046 riots claiming 151 lives occurred in Maharashtra alone. In 942 riots in Uttar Pradesh, there were 339 killings. Similarly, 62 were killed in 580 riots in Karnataka and 15 in Madhya Pradesh in 901 riots. The methodology of recent riots in Dhauliya, Rabori (Maharashtra), Adilabad, Bhainsa (Andhra Pradesh), Darang (Assam), Jabalpur, Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh) and Bahraich, Shrawasti etc. (Uttar Pradesh) shows that these riots were perpetrated in a planned manner in accordance with a pre-planned program. Riot in Dhauliya was instigated on the pattern of Gujarat riots. It is not difficult to judge on the basis of the incident of burning peoples alive in Bhainsa in Adilabad that communal elements have succeeded in managing their access to those areas too where the position of communal harmony has been relatively better. Neither any effective laws have been framed so far for preventing communal riots intermittently flaring up in the country or for stopping propagation of communalism and communal hatred nor effective steps have been taken against communalists. Information does come that the government is doing this or that but on the ground level, the information is failing to don realistic attire. No practical and effective measure has been taken against the groups and organizations held

by various commissions to be responsible for riot, even as this is compulsory for the government to ensure the protection of life and property of the citizens, as stipulated under article 21 of the Constitution. In this connection, Supreme Court and High Court verdicts are very clear that the protection of citizens' life and property is the duty of state governments and if any state fails in discharging this duty, payment of compensation compulsorily falls on it. Governments have been defying court orders concerning Muslims. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has been raising its voice against it. Along with making it a part of 'Mulk-o-Millat Bachao (Save the Country and the Millat)' Movement, it has been drawing government authorities' attention towards it through conferences meetings and public addresses, besides running a signature campaign. It has also presented a memorandum signed by 21 lac persons to the President of Indian Republic. Under their common minimum program, UPA government had promised to frame a comprehensive and effective law to prevent riots. Even the draft of the proposed Riots Prevention Bill is ready. Various parties have prepared and handed over the draft to the government. Human rights organizations have also forwarded proposals and suggestions to amend it and make it more effective but alas! No practical initiative has been taken on it. Considering the continuing wave of recent riots, this need is felt strongly that the law to prevent riots be framed immediately and necessary steps be taken accordingly. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has always been demanding that responsibility of riots be placed on district administration and necessary actions be taken for awarding realistic punishment to the rioting group. Such a law is a strong requirement of present times in which there are no escape routes for rioters and arrangements are made for uniform compensations to the affected without making any differentiation or discrimination. Unless establishment of peace and law is ensured at each level by framing laws against the rioters, prevention of communal tension and riots cannot be hoped.

Reservation for Muslims

Representation of Muslims in various departments of life is declining day to day and has come to naught in certain departments. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has been striving for and demanding their representation in all departments of life in proportion to their population ever since the day of independence. During 90s, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind launched a countrywide campaign in 1997 on demand of reservation for Indian Muslims and secured 21 lac signatures for it. This document was presented by a 52-member renowned delegation of the Jamiat to erstwhile President of India along with a memorandum on March 8, 1999. Then, the organization launched 'Mulk-o-Millat Bachao' movement and held conferences, meetings and conclaves on the issue. The struggle has been continuing till date. The organization has talked about reservation for Muslims in proportion to their population at a time when none was prepared even to talk about it. It was usually said that the demand would inflame the whole country. This is significant that reservation for Muslims became a topic of common discussion after Jamiat's movement and campaign. Now various political parties and organizations are also talking supporting reservation for Muslims. Whether it is Lok Sabha or assemblies or other government and non-government institutions or private sector or education or service, their representation nowhere accords with their population. Presently, there are about 97 per cent incumbencies in private sector and its institutions. There are also talks on giving reservation in private sector. Even the government is working for that but this is mostly in the context of backward castes and tribes. In general, Muslim minorities, especially labourer Muslim communities are being ignored. In 1950, Muslims and Christians were excluded from this category by amending the article 341 of the Constitution through a presidential ordinance. This is contrary to the spirit and policy of the constitution to not discriminate against any citizen as well as to its concept of equality. After the

amendment, Sikhs and Buddhists were placed at par with other non-Muslim scheduled castes but Muslims and Christians were deprived of this benefit, although they are also associated with the same job and the same profession. According to a saying of Gandhi Ji, social status of a person does not change because of religious conversion and reservation remains available to him on the basis of educational and social backwardness and not on religious basis. Therefore, this objection is baseless that there is no provision in the Constitution to give reservation on the basis of religion. Depriving from reservation on the ground of religion itself implies accepting religion as a basis. Sikhs, Buddhists and others belonging to Hindu society are religious units in themselves. If a Muslim or a Christian becomes a Hindu, reservation facilities are restored for him. This clarifies that reservation is no hurdle for reservation. Large numbers of legal experts also believe and say so. It has been admitted in Gopal Krishna and Dr. Thamayya report that Muslims' education is very lowly and their economic condition is worse than that of extremely poor in the country. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind had given this information decades ago. Now Sachar Committee has also accepted it. Unless Muslims, who constitute the second biggest majority in the country, are assimilated in common stream of the country's progress, balanced progress of the country cannot be conceived. Reservation is also one of its different facets. Grant of 4 per cent reservation as a result of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind's efforts proves this. Although, many hurdles are being placed here in the trail of reservation, the case is being heard in the court and Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind is fighting the case in the court, yet the interim verdict of the Supreme Court has kindled a ray of hope. For the time being, the Majlis-e- 'Amilah of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has allocated rupees fifty lac (Rs. 50,00,000-) for pursuing the case in the court. Considering the over all situation of the country with regard to reservation, this is the field of a long and trying struggle but we will continue our struggle. Presently, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind wants the union and state governments to grant

reservation to Muslims on the pattern of Karnataka where they are enjoying reservation as a Muslim and as a caste-based community as well on the merit of education. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has been proposing a form of reservation in that all Muslims, with the exception of their upper classes, be granted reservation by declaring them backward, Muslims' OBC quota in 27.5 reservation awarded by Mandal Commission be marked separately and labourer Muslim castes also be given reservation by amending article 341 of the Constitution, since the condition of religion put in this article is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and basic requirements of justice.

Case of Action Taken on Sachar Committee and Ranga Nath Mishra Commission Reports

Leaders of the Country!

The way to the progress of Muslims as well their backward communities and their inclusion in the common stream of the country could also be opened by honestly implementing the recommendations of the Sachar Committee and the Ranga Nath Commission. Those points and subjects are present in Sachar Committee report that Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has been putting forth in various forms since so many years, especially for Muslims.

Very clear statistics on Muslims' backwardness and their thinning representation in all departments of life have been presented during the countrywide signature campaign on demands of reservation for Muslims and law making for preventing riots and paying compensations to the affected and, later, in public addresses of Hazrat Fida-e-Millat (R), whereas this is a reality that the formation of the Sachar Committee has been the result of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind's struggle and the tireless efforts of its late emir of the caravan. He had asked the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to form a higher-level committee in the leadership of an honest person in order to review educational, social and economic status of Muslims. The demand

to form a separate ministry to deal with and solve the issues and affairs concerning the minority was also raised by Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind for the first time. A high level delegation comprising the representatives and authorities of various organizations had officially met with the Prime Minister in the leadership of Hazrat Fida-e-Millat (R) and placed duly written demand before him. This meeting was scheduled in the last week of October 2004, on 26th day of the month. Sachar Committee report is governmental confirmation and endorsement of facts and evidences presented by Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind. This data gives the details of Muslim backwardness in different departments of life. Although reservation for Muslims is not recommended in it, Justice Ranga Nath Mishra Commission, formed to review its recommendations and the points presented in it, has recommended 10 per cent reservation for Muslims and inclusion of backward labourer castes of Muslims by amending article 341. Sachar Committee has tried to a great extent to cover those essential matters related with Muslim that concern their backwardness and progress. Presenting a survey of Muslim population, division of population, health situation, educational condition of Muslims, economy, employment, access to bank loans, access to social and material facilities, poverty, utilization of objects, standard of life, government employment and programs, Muslim OBCs and Awkaf in this 404-page report compiled under 12 chapters and 76 topics, important recommendations and proposals have presented, for instance: (1) establishing National Data Bank for collecting statistics on social and religious units, (2) establishing a special institution to examine and supervise special programs initiated for minorities, (3) forming a special commission to dispense with the complaints of discrimination and bias, (4) examining text books so that wrong material would not creep in them, (5) instructing University Grants Commission (UGC) for proper allocation of funds, (6) devising a separate standard for admitting social and religious units in specialized colleges and

institutions of higher education, in which 60 per cent weight be given to capability and 40 per cent to backwardness, (7) removing present contradictions in electoral delimitation scheme under which constituencies are reserved, (8) compulsorily including such material for teachers' training in the textbooks that would highlight the importance of diversity present in the country so that the teachers could be sensitized towards the needs and aspirations of Muslims and other marginalized communities, (9) providing hostel facilities on reasonable rent to minority students on priority basis, (10) devising a system to affiliate Madrasas with a higher secondary board so that the students desirous of joining the basic stream of education could do so after finishing Madrasa education, (11) recognizing of Madrasa certificates for the purposes of appearance in competitive tests of civil services, banks, defence services, (12) promoting Muslims' access to priority sector advances, (13) including Muslim experts in concerned interview panels and boards, (14) providing financial assistance for initiating those professional and business ventures with which large numbers of Muslims have been associated and which have potential for growth, (15) simplifying registration of Awkaf (trusts) established by Muslims and Masjid Committees.

Apart from this, other fruitful and effective recommendations are also there, for example: transparency in appointments, increase in Muslims' share in employment, establishment of ITIs, polytechnics and other institutions in Muslim majority areas. This is our impression that if these steps are taken in accordance with the recommendations and proposals of Sachar Committee report, the way for lessening Muslims' backwardness will be opened. In this connection, action should be started immediately by placing the recommendations of Fatimi Committee, Ranga Nath Mishra Commission report and its recommendations in the parliament.

The Problem of Protection of Awkaf

Sympathizers of the Country and the Community!

This is known to you that lacs of Wakf properties exist in the country. According to an estimate, there are five lac Wakf properties but registered Awkaf are about two lac twenty thousand. However, the Ummah is deprived of utilizing their income because of improper management, misappropriation and illegal possession of those Awkaf. Central Wakf Act was passed by the parliament in 1945 as a result of the efforts put by Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind and Maulana Azad (R). Attempts have been on since that time till date to make the law more beneficial by amending and improving it. In spite of all this, the condition of Awkaf is retreating from bad to worse. Anti-social elements, land mafia and corrupt persons in the administration have occupied innumerable Wakf properties. Wakf properties are in illegal occupation of government and semi-government institutions. Information on sale of Wakf properties for a few pennies by the corrupt staff of Wakf Boards is also coming in regularly. On account of illegal occupation, the major chunk of Awakf incomes gets spent on legal suits. Graveyard lands are major targets of illegal occupations. The government earns billions of rupees every year from sources inside and outside the country on account of historical Muslim monuments but not a single penny out of it is spent on Muslims. Days ago, the union government had formed a joint parliamentary committee in the leadership of the member of parliament nominated from this very city of Hyderabad, La'l Mohammad Pasha, in order to review Wakf properties and its members had tried to learn about present state of Awkaf by visiting various state, whereas certain other organizations are also active in this connection. The scope of survey visits of the parliamentary committee should be expanded and made effective, because present visits are usually confined to state capitals. Present condition of Awkasf has deteriorated to such an extent that the need of decisive steps is felt. Because of K. Rahman Khan's

induction in the committee to supervise it, some hope has germinated for protection of Awkaf properties and proper utilization of their income. Sachar Committee has drawn government's attention toward making effective arrangements for protection of Awkaf. Our proposals in this regard are:

- Accounts and performance of every Wakf Board should be published. Disciplinary action must be taken for failing to do so.
- Article 51 of Wakf Act 1951 should be implemented in such a way that leasing or handing over any Wakf property for any use without notifying to the public is prevented.
- The state government should conduct Wakf properties' survey every fifth year.
- Mutawalli should be authorized to grant loans to the needy or the poor or the students in need of it and presently busy in their studies (which is not stipulated in present Wakf Act). However, the representatives of selected organizations and elected members may supervise this process.
- Recognizing the Wakf properties not registered with Wakf Board, those properties should be brought in the ambit of legal adjudication. In present Wakf Act, Awkaf of this type have been deprived of raising any claim, so, in present state of affairs, a major part of Awkaf will get destroyed. Parliamentary Review Committee should pay attention to restoration and protection of those Mosques and graveyards that have been occupied by government institutions and land mafia.
- Representation in the Wakf Boards, along with authority, should be accorded to reputed Muslim organizations having presence all over India. Spotted persons or individuals working against the objectives of the Wakf or those involved in court cases should not be inducted in boards in any capacity.

Need for Minorities-Dalit Unity

Benefactors of the Country and the Community!

No need to tell you that the influence of fascist forces on the affairs of the country is getting augmented, on account of which justice, law, equality and other higher values enshrined in the Constitution and required for peace have come in jeopardy. According to its capacity, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has started the initiative to ensure that the systems of the country would not fall completely in the hands of fascist powers. Actually, this country belongs to the majority of minorities. Therefore, the organization is striving to unite the minorities of this country. Conferences and general sessions have been held in this connection at various places of the country. Joint meetings of Dalits have been held in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Kanpur and Delhi. The Majlis-e-‘Amilah of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind and its representative conclave held on June 20-21, 2002, unanimously decided to strive to unite all minorities, Dalits and backward classes in order to confront the present situation of the country. We are aware that apart from temperament and tastes, other difficulties will also interfere in this course of this unity and integration but the expedience of the community and the country requires that we make this unity more and more stronger by assimilating the difficulties.

In this connection, we should note it in our minds properly that as human beings, Islam gives equal status to all human beings. It has been clarified in the charter that the Prophet (S.A.W.) presented for the human world on the occasion of his last Hajj that with respect to colour, race and locality, no human being has got any excellence over any other human being. Besides, there is no concept of untouchability in Islam. According to Islamic principles, the leftover of all human beings is clean and pure: *Suwarul Insani Tahirun*. The Qur’anic message is: *Inna Akramakum ‘inda Allahi Atqakum* (Indeed, the most honourable among you in the sight of Allah is

he who is the most pious.)

From this Islamic point of view, Dalit and Brahmins and all others are equal. There is no Shari'ah-based or social impediment for us in eating, drinking, standing or sitting in company of Dalits etc. We committed a folly in this regard in that we could not maintain our relations with the weaker classes and Dalits etc. with the same intensity as they ought to be. We should correct this attitude. Social discrimination and bias against Dalits is the outcome of Hindu mindset and this is necessary for Muslims to avoid it as a Muslim. Rather in a way, Muslim minority and Dalits are similar in being oppressed and accursed. On account of it, the unity among Muslims and Dalits is a natural thing and cooperation with other minorities is also essential.

Considering all this, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has initiated the cycle of smoothing relations with Dalits and backward classes and organized programs of eating and drinking under this scheme. The Jamiat is in contact of Dalits and labourers in Andhra Pradesh. There is the need to augment this program and take it further ahead. Hazrat Fida-e-Millat (R) was very sincere in this regard. In wake of changing situation of the country, the need for minorities-Dalits unity has become more intense in comparison to earlier times.

Organizational Stability

Esteemed Members!

Individual have got the status of the backbone for any Jama'at. Progress of a Jama'at depends on its devoted workers. However elevated the objectives of a Jama'at may happen to be, if its organizational structure is not robust, it can never put its vision in practice. Therefore, I will request all members and associates to pay attention to strengthening Jama'at's organization, and no organization can become stable until it pays full attention to its constructive programs. For the elders of our Jama'at, the constructive programs were so important that they were made a part of the fundamental

constitution in a proper way.

Respected Sir!

These very constructive programs are the real spirit of our Jama'at and the units that put them in practice properly, they earn unparalleled acclaim and acceptance of both the masses and the elites.

Establishment of Modern Technical Institutions

The need of craft and science education has amplified much more in present age. With extreme labour and sacrifice, Muslims should establish following institution in each state of the country:

(1) Medical College (2) Science College (3) Law College (4) Commerce College (5) Teachers Training College (6) ITI (7) Polytechnic (8) Allied Science (9) Diagnostic Center

In this direction, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has achieved special advances since the days of Hazrat Fida-e-Millat. Some work has been started in different parts of the country apart from Delhi. A training college has been approved recently.

Mischievous Drive Against Islamic Madrasas

Gentlemen!

The golden services rendered by the Islamic Madrasas established in every nook and corner of Indo-Pak subcontinent for the survival and propagation of Islam are worth being written with lacquer of gold. The magnificent character of Islamic Madrasas stretched over about one hundred and fifty years is like an open book. Madrasas never rebelled against the country and the community instead loyal, moralist and peace-loving citizens came into existence out of their wombs ever and ever. These Madrasas are a living and awakened movement of truth and loyalty, whose highest services are inscribed in history in golden alphabets. This movement did not confine its rays within brimming cities and populations; instead this movement spread from village to village and grew in valleys and woods till

it imbued the children of those backward communities who had not been able to deserve the attention of civilized nations so far with consciousness and civility by gaining access to far flung and difficult to reach places. The mould raised in Madrasa shines and glows for the country and the community. The learners studying here are not a burden for the fate of the country rather they are the crowns on the head of the country's prominence. The lessons of philanthropy, tolerance and loyalty are taught here. The students completing their studies here, who are greatly obliging the country and the community by discharging selfless teaching and training service without seeking even a penny from the national exchequer, are protectors of national prestige and the trustees of the country's honour and prominence.

Gentlemen!

The graduates of these Madrasas have not only nurtured communal harmony and Hindu-Muslim unity but also presented models of unparalleled sacrifices in the war of independence. Whether it was Shamili Jihad in 1857 or Silken Handkerchief movement of Sheikhul Hind (R) that had robbed the sleeps of Englishmen, all those movements were run in the leadership of the Fazils (highly learned) of Madrasas. Well, one of the main characteristics of this Silken Handkerchief movement was that Hazrat Sheikhul Hind (R) had proposed the name of Raja Mahender Pratap Singh as president of the exile government he had planned in Kabul, so that the communal harmony could be promoted in the country. This is a major proof of the vast heartedness of our 'Ulema. Besides, our this very Jama'at, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, is also expressive of the activities of the learned men having benefited from those Madrasas. The Grand Mufti Hazrat Maulana Mufti Kifayatullah Saheb (R), Sheikhul Islam Hazrat Maulana Syed Husain Ahmad Madani (R), Mujahid-e-Millat Hazrat Maulana Hifzur Rahman Saheb of Seohara (R), Sayyidul Millat Hazrat Maulana Syed Mohammad Mian Saheb (R) and others took greater and greater part in the movements of independence from this very platform

and suffered the hardship of detention and prison.

But this is a matter of regret that today, a planned campaign is being run for character assassination of Madrasas and such statements and articles are published every other day in which the activities of Madrasas are presented as linked with terrorism. It is of special mention that national media's role in this regard is not satisfactory. Although these allegations are false and government authorities themselves have confessed that Madrasas are not involved in terrorism, it is needed to face this situation sincerely. It is a better form of doing this that Madrasa people should keep inviting in their programs the local and district level officers and influential non-Muslims so that they would get satisfied after watching the Madrasa system and its character closely, and this practice would help in preventing enemies' baseless propaganda.

Objection Against Preponderance of Madrasas

Gentlemen!

Now a days this objection is also common that why is it that Madrasas are being established in such great numbers? So, the thing worth pondering about is that this fact has been highlighted recently in Sachar Committee report that the proportion of Muslim children going to Madrasas for education purposes amounts to 4 per cent of them, which means 96 per cent of Muslim children study in schools, whereas the said gentleman has said so by keeping in view Maktab (literacy centers) in all cities and villages. But if facts are investigated, it will become known that a large number of children going to contemporary schools is found among children coming to local Maktab and this is not necessarily true for the children studying in Maktab only that they would go for higher religious education too because many children drop out Maktab education itself and only a particular proportion of them steps in Arabic educational system after completing memorization of the Qur'an, whereas this

ratio declines further as they approach to Daurah-e-Hadees classes. So, according to our cautious estimates, at the most ten thousand students would be completing Daurah every year in India. Now, if Muslim population in the country is supposed to be 20 crore and is compared with the figure of 10,000, it is obvious that the proportion of students heading towards Madrasas is only 0.0005 i. e. only one religious scholar for a population of 20,000 Muslims. So, the thing worth consideration is that Muslims need ‘Ulema, Muftis and Imams of Mosques proportionate to their population in order to remain steadfast on their Deen but how could this demand be met in absence of Madrasas? According to our information, the individuals required for Ummah are not becoming available sufficiently, in spite of increase in numbers of Madrasas to a great extent, and so many habitats are devoid of Makatib and so many Mosques are deprived of Imams and Mu’azzins. If present efforts for Madrasas weaken further, this proportion will surely decline further (O Allah! Save us from this). On the same ground, the poet of the East ‘Allamah Iqbal has made following realistic comments about Madrasas:

“Leave these Maktabs and Madrasas in the same state. Let the children of poor Muslims study in these Madrasas. Do you know what will happen if these Mullahs and Dervishes do not remain here any more? Whatever will happen I have seen from my own eyes. If Indian Muslims are deprived of these Madrasas, save for Agra’s Taj Mahal and Delhi’s Red Fort, no other trace of Muslims’ one thousand years long civilization will be found in India in the same way as it happened in Spain that in spite of 800 years of Muslim rule in Andalusia, no imprint of the influence of the followers of Islam and Islamic civilization is found there save for the remnants of the ruins of Granada and Kordoba, Al-Hamra and Babul Khawateen.”

(Al-Jami’ah, Deeni Madaris Number 12)

This commentary of ‘Allamah Iqbal on Madrasas that should be kept in view at all times is surely based on realities.

The Enticement of Government Assistance for Madrasas

Gentlemen!

In the Constitution of India, all national minorities are given the right to run their religious institutions, therefore, constitutionally, the government cannot close any educational institution without any special reason. On the other hand, this is also a fact that the progress of Madrasas and Muslims’ attachment with them is very cumbersome for anti-Islam and communalist forces. Further, since these Madrasas are not dependent on government for their financial system, therefore, the government has no authority to interfere in their business. Therefore, this methodology was adopted to damage Madrasa movement and sabotage their objective that government-aided Madrasas were established and in this way the way was paved for interference in Madrasas. This has been continuing since earlier times and more severity is coming in it now. This movement has been a failure till now because the resourceful Madrasas and the institutions affiliated with them have taken the government assistance as the forbidden tree. In the light of their experience, they believe that the ‘government money’ is injurious for Madrasas, so far as its end results are concerned. This is a usual tradition in the world that final say in an institution or organization goes to him who spends money and no person can stop his interference. Since independent religious institutions are yet not dependent on government for their financial arrangement, therefore, the government is also in a position to interfere in any system of Madrasas. If these Madrasas become reliant on government for their finances, as is the case of Madrasas affiliated with State Boards, then, in spite of government’s initial pledge in thousands of ways to not interfere in Madrasa system, this very financial assistance will

smooth the path of interference in near future and it has been experienced that once the Marasas become habitual of government assistance, their existence becomes entirely dependent on government policy. As long as the government will want to let them continue, it will do so and when it will wish otherwise, it will kill them prematurely by withdrawing the cooperative hands. At such a time, the 'Ulema and employees who would have become habitual of free assistance will be completely paralyzed to the extent that they will not be able to dare move and relocate. The only way to avoid this terrifying outcome is turning down the government offer in the initial stage itself and maintaining the tradition of running and sustaining our institutions with the cooperation of our community. The habit of Muslim community continuing since last one and a half century to cooperate with their religious institutions should not be allowed to lapse because this is the very source on merit of which the Millat can continue its educational journey along with ideological freedom and remain safe from all sort of external interferences.

Today, a number of zealous persons appear supporting and advising for government affiliation on pretense of defects in internal system of religious Madrasas but from our point of view this approach is not judicious, instead it is synonymous to prescribing another more serious disease as a cure for one ailment. There is no doubt that Madrasas should keep their internal systems of education, training, administration and finance acceptable and transparent, and attempts should also be made for every possible correction to wrongs but this is no solution that we get afflicted by another bigger tribulation in the name of suppressing this testing trouble because correction of internal lapses is in our own hands but government interference is such a trouble whose correction is beyond our control. Therefore, although care for improvements is definitely an obligation and there are no two opinions on this subject but no such proposal is adequate for this purpose which could become the cause of additional blight

instead of reforms.

Gentlemen!

If government is really concerned over Muslims' progress, then, instead of chasing the Madrasas, it should approve the projects of Muslims' contemporary schools, colleges and technical institutions that have been requiring its attention for years.

Importance of Religious Maktab

Leaders of the Country and the Community!

You are surely aware of the fact that establishment of religious Maktab is impervious for the existence and survival of Muslims. Today, wherever one finds a place populated by religious splendor and Islamic emblems, it is because of these religious Maktab, otherwise it is better to not speak about and narrate the religious situation of habitats where Maktab do not exist. As population is increasing, requirement of Maktab is also increasing day by day, especially in rural habitats where ignorance about Deen and lack of knowledge about religious duties and injunctions has grown to the levels causing concern. Similarly, the children, who study in contemporary schools in cities and towns, remain ignorant of the basics of the Deen in spite of growing in age. Such students should be necessarily sent to morning and nightly Maktab in order to impart basic religious knowledge to them. This is necessary that along side a Mosque, provision for Maktab education is also made. Charity donors should provide more and more capital for establishing Maktab. On behalf of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind, there is a proposal to allocate ten per cent of its budget for Maktab and all big institutions and organizations are strongly requested that it will be immensely beneficial if they spend an appropriate part of their budget on establishment, popularization and spread of Maktab.

Concern Over Turncoat Activities

Distinguished 'Ulema and Well-wishers of the Millat!

This is also a cause of great concern that apostasy movements launched by Qadiyanis and Christians are continuing in an organized manner in various parts of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other state where backward populations are the target of these movements. Similarly, the majority of northeastern states, including Manipur, Nagaland and Sikkim, has got affected by Christian movements. Christian missionaries are active in Kashmir with full force and have made Muslim youths their special target. They capture young boys and girls well versed in modern education but ignorant of Deen in the net of their deception woven by dreams of better future and are trying to turn them into turncoats by providing them the means of luxuries of all type. Several young men involved in such incidents have re-embraced Islam as a result of the acumen of certain 'Ulema during previous days. But we cannot guess the number such young men correctly who might have destroyed their Deen and belief after getting entangled in their net of deception. Therefore, we need to be alert and awake everywhere.

In the same way, Qadiyani cancer is spreading in so many regions by adopting Muslim names and attires, and simpleton ignorant Muslims are getting caught in their ring. There is the need to confront this belief-killing movement with full preparation and alertness. All India Majlis-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatm-e-Nubuwwat has already been established in Darul 'Uloom Deoband. Collective efforts should be made in affected areas after contacting this organization and our anti-Qadiyaniyyat literature should be made available to educated sensible persons so that the Deen and belief of our Muslim brethren could be saved.

Gentlemen!

Incidents of unrest and disorder also occurred at some places due to Qadiyani activities during previous days. So, although Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind does not deem it appropriate to take any action by taking law in hand but it will surely like to draw government's attention toward prevention of provocations by Qadiyani community in every place so that no unpleasant incident would occur as a reaction.

Revival of Markaz-e-Da'wat-e-Islam**Leaders of the Millat!**

Providing healthy literature to the community also constitutes a significant part of the constructive programs of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind because it is only this literature that provides strength to the ideological foundations of the Millat. Considering the rapid pace at which educational movements are spreading today, we are feeling the need of fresh literature at every next step. It is our duty to fetch reformative and religious information to people in the context of the new age, and these books and journals should not be confined to Urdu language, instead their publication in other language, especially in Hindi and English languages, as per requirement, is an important need of present times.

In this connection, Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has decided to reactivate its old department of 'Markaz-e-Da'war-e-Islam'. I request to all members of Jamiat to cooperate with the Jama'at in keeping this department lively and energetic, and easiest form of this co-operation would be to purchase its publications and deliver it to each household.

Need for Social Reforms**Gentlemen!**

In the sight of the Qur'an and the Sunnah, the reasons behind the circumstances befalling on Muslims in our country and the whole

world lie in our own weaknesses and lapses. Allah, the Exalted, has commanded in the Gracious Qur'an:

Corruption has appeared on land sea because of the evil which men' hands have earned, that He may make them taste a part of that which they have done, in order that they may return. (Al-Rum: 41)

Therefore, whereas we have to adopt apparent material measures for transforming the circumstances, we also have to pay full attention to social reforms among us, otherwise we will never succeed in achieving our objective because the believers can achieve honour and ascendance only when they will completely put the Deen in their practice. Allah's commandment says:

Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good works that He will cause them to succeed others in the land, as He gave succession to those who were before them, and that He will establish for them that religion which He has approved for them, and that after their fears He will give them security in exchange. They worship Me; they ascribe nothing as partner unto Me. And whoever disbelieves after that, such are miscreants, impious. (Al-Nur: 55)

Exhortation for total pursuance of Islam and avoidance of satanic practices comes at another place in this way:

O you who believe! Submit, all of you, to Allah, and do not walk in Satan's footsteps; assuredly he is an open enemy to you. (Al-Baqarah: 208)

For this reason, it is compulsory for a Muslim to care for implementing Deen within his circle of influence and keep making all possible efforts for eliminating evils from the society. As it is the duty of government department of pub health to keep an eye on the city and immediately announce the drugs, the treatment and the precautionary measures for preventing the epidemic spreading there or suspected to spread, in the same way, this is the responsibility

of the ‘Ulema in each locality to watch the objectionable practices spreading in the populace and adopt appropriate means and measures to eradicate each and every objectionable practice from the society, otherwise the society will get destroyed morally and spiritually. The survival of this Deen depends on Amr bil Ma’roof and Nahy ‘anil Munkar (command for good deeds and negation of objectionable practices). If this task is not continued, the Ummah can never live in peace and well-being. For the same reason, social reforms have had focal significance in constructive programs of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind. So, former honourable president Hazeat Fida-e-Millat Maulana Syed As’ad Saheb Madani (may Allah fill his grave with radiance) had launched social reforms movement in 1992 all over the country on behalf of Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind. And had started celebrating 10-days long ‘Islah-e-Mu’ashirah’ programs under auspices of central and state-level Jama’ats and sending ‘Ulema’s delegations that still continues in one form or the other. However, the task needs to be expedited. This movement cannot succeed without local units’ active role. Therefore, I earnestly appeal to all members of the Jamiat and its well-wishers to labour for it by turning social reforms into a mission and never be careless towards their incumbent duty.

Adopt Simplicity in Celebrations

Gentlemen!

It is disappointing that today a large chunk of their precious capital is being wasted in extravagance in their celebrations. Lacs of rupees are thrown away like water only for show-off and display in the very moment when a large section of the Ummah is bearing the brunt of poverty and penury or has become needy of every single grain after becoming the victim of natural hazards. Indulging in squandering and extravagance by overlooking all this is a testimony to great apathy. The way to squandering leads to obvious ruin that needs to be contemplated sincerely. It would be appropriate to

attempt to prevent such activities at the level of Biradaris (fraternities). Influential persons of each biradari should sit together and devise such measures that are Shari'ah-compatible. These measures should be put in personal practice honestly and others should be asked to adopt them, whereas unnecessary transactions and demands of dowry (Jahez) should be avoided completely.

Ban Abominable Things

Respected Audience!

The biggest temptation of this age is popular spread of abominable things and obscenity. There is a saying of the Illustrious Prophet (S.A.W.): "I did not left after me any tribulation more dangerous for the men of my Ummah than evil-doer women." (Bukhari and Muslim). For this reason, strict orders for veils of women given in the Holy Qur'an and the noble Hadiths, to the extent that they are prohibited from coming out of their homes without any real need. Allah's command says at one place:

And stay in your houses. Bedizen not yourselves with the bedizenment of the Time of Ignorance. (Al-Ahzab:33)

But this Jahiliyyah (ignorance) has now become commonplace everywhere and lack of veil is increasing in Muslim society too, which is extremely distressing. Therefore, there is the need to ensure strict observation of the practice of veil. Further, caution is also needed against the spread of abominable things through devices like television. Apart from this, attention is required towards following matters:

- (1) Preponderance of usurious and forbidden (Haram) dealing in Muslim society is also a cause of extreme concern. Gambling and lottery (like Satta) is common in Muslim localities. So many households have been ruined by lottery. Worst effects of this forbidden consumption are affecting our religious temperaments. Use of forbidden in-

come is a big reason behind prevalence of abominable things and irreligiosity today.

- (2) Millat's future is linked with our youths. Waywardness of our youth is nothing less than a tragedy. Immediate attention should be paid to reformation of our youths.
- (3) Males should fashion beards, don Islamic dress and take care of their Islamic appearance.
- (4) Mutual disputes and fights should be avoided. Special care should be given to not ruin Deen and belief as well as capital by falling in court wrangles.
- (5) Arrangements should be made to avoid lie, backbiting and false accusations.

Israeli Aggression in Palestine

Oppression of Arab Palestinians and their accursed position has become a symbol of conspiracy by USA and U. K., tyrannies and aggression by Israel and unholy desire of usurping Arab lands. Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind has always condemned and opposed Israeli ambitions and strides and supported the rights and demands of Palestinians. Unrighteous support given by USA to Israel as well as the ineffective position of global community have played an important role in violations of the rights of the oppressed inhabitants of Palestine. A strong publicity campaign was launched by Israel and USA claiming that Yasser Arafat is an obstacle on the path of peace establishment. After his demise and even after ascension of Mehmood 'Abbas and later of HAMAS to power through democratic elections, the steps needed to solve the Palestinian problem were not taken. Respecting global opinion, Palestinians have ceased fire in order to move the peace dialogues with Israel ahead but even presently, incidents of resistance and skirmishes keep happening. Israel has been continually violating the Road Map and the Peace Agreement. Palestinians' problems keep aggravating because of economic blockade and other

sanctions. The situation in Palestine is distressing even today. The manner in which the sequence of subjecting Palestinians to extreme tribulations, by enforcing the economic blockade of Gaza Strip, has been started is expressive of Israel's unholy intention. It is pitiable that neither the Islamic world nor Arab countries is putting any pressure on Israel for stopping aggression. This is shameful for the Islamic world. However, at the level of humanity on the whole, it is a welcome development that those people have realized the helplessness of Palestinians whose dominant population is non-Muslim or belongs to USA and other western countries. It was out of their efforts that 'Free Gaza Movement' came into existence. In spite of unexceptional dangers and pressure from global Zionist lobby, the movement dispatched 40 volunteers for Gaza through sea route to break economic blockade. These volunteers, including 80 years old sister of Toni Blair, belong to various nationalities and countries. Israel made very effort to frighten, intimidate and block the path of these volunteers but failed in face of their undefeatable determination. This group embarked on their journey from Cyprus on two boats through a waterway on which no boat had passed for a long time. The unarmed group filled with the spirit of human sympathy and peace and freedom finally succeeded in accomplishing a task that resource-rich Arab governments could not undertake. On August 23, 2008, they broke Israel's mighty blockade. New hopes germinated out of this event and new possibilities brightened. Announcing changes in their high-handed stance, Israeli foreign ministry said in a communiqué that attempts will not be made in future to stop, frighten or intimidate any mission related with human rights and human assistance. On the other side, Egyptian authorities have allowed a few patients to enter in the country through Rafah post. We admire the people exerting for human values and establishment of peace. We hope that later or sooner, pleasant changes will come in the situation. Palestinian problem will play an important role in

establishment of peace at global level. There are possibilities of changes at global level as a result of Palestinians' independence, their respectful life and establishment of the autonomous republic. We demand USA, Russia and the world community to cooperate in establishment of autonomous independent State of Palestine as per their promises, rehabilitate homeless devastated people of Palestine, pave the way for their return to homes, and evacuate Israeli forces from the occupied Arab lands presently in its possession. Indian government should also play its role in this connection. This is sorrowful that Indian policy on Israel-Palestine tangle has got transformed and deviated under pressure from USA and Israel. Ignoring previous traditions and policies of Gandhi, Nehru and the country, the government is moving ahead towards out of limit proximity and concord with Israel. Considering this, we demand that India should adhere to its policy of supporting and assisting the oppressed and the weaker.

Islamic World

Intellectuals of the Country and the Community!

Entire Islamic world is the target of the circumstances through which it is passing as well as of the USA-Zionist elements and coercion by them. The terrorism being perpetrated in the leadership of USA, on pretext of democracy, liberty, elimination of terrorism and riddance of dangerous and destructive weapons, has thrown in jeopardy the global peace and order and sovereignty, especially of third world countries. Iraq was done away with on pretense of the destructive chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein was hanged and all this was done in name of freedom and deliverance of Iraqi people from oppression and tyranny. It was said that the purpose of attack on Iraq was to hand over the reins of Iraq in the hands of Iraqi people and establish peace but the real situation is obvious to the world. USA lies have come to public knowledge completely. No

destructive weapon was found there. Such circumstances of murder and killings, plunder and destruction and ruin and anarchy have taken roots in Iraq that could not be imagined earlier. Now USA itself and its allies are admitting that situation in Iraq is beyond control and very serious. It is needed now that Iraqi people be allowed to determine their fate. No country can clinch progress and democracy with complete autonomy and liberty under the shadow of its occupation by foreign powers.

Afghanistan

Similar is the situation in Afghanistan too. In spite of unrestrained losses and devastation of life and property, no contours of peace establishment have emerged there so far. Amid geographical and social situation of Afghanistan, USA authorities are also feeling that circumstances in Afghanistan are heading towards an extremely dangerous course. Exploiting the situation in Afghanistan, regular air attacks are being made on Pakistan's border and tribal areas on pretext of terrorism in which educational institutions, Madrasas, Mosques and residential dwellings are being annihilated and blameless are being killed. In spite of Pakistan government's repeated appeals and protests to respect and protect its sovereignty, the series of attacks is not subsiding. On the other hand, attempts are being made to corner Iran from several directions. Apart from economic embargo, various other tactics are being used to paralyze Iran. Besides the efforts to get Sudanese president declared as a convict in the International Court, the attempts to spread disorder and unrest in that country by arming the rebels through Zionist powers there also clarify amply that no chance would be given to developing countries, especially Muslim countries, to emerge to ascendance, and all those methods are being adopted to utilize those countries' natural resources and mineral deposits for outsider might that have no scope in today's democratic and civilized epoch. It is needed

that the developing countries, the countries affiliated with Non-Alignment Movement and all those peace-loving countries who are desirous of peace would come to fore to confront the aggression launched by USA and its allies.

Conclusion

Gentlemen!

Finally, I apologize for bruising your hearing organs and express my thankfulness for your assistance and favour. With regard to the problems and troubles of present times, I shall like to redraw your attention towards the fact that our history is full of examples that whenever testing times approached, the believers returned back to Allah and adopted correct strategy whereupon newer triumphs bowed to their feet. We should trust none but Allah with the conviction and submission that only He is the real dispenser, and become active in improving our religious, Milli, national, communal, collective, economic and commercial condition. For the solution of problems of domestic, national and constitutional nature, keep democratic and country-loving compatriots in your company during your struggle and move ahead equipped with this joint power. Allah-willing, success will welcome you.

La Tahinu wa la Tahzanu wa Antumul A'launa in Kuntum Mu'mineen.

Rabana la Tuzigh Qulubuna ba'da iz Hadaitana wa Hub lana min ladunka Rahmah. Innaka Antal Wahhab. Rabana Afrigh 'Alaina Sabran wa Thabbit Aqdamana wa Unsurna 'alal Qaumil Kafireen.

Wa Aakhiru Da'wana anil Hamdu li Allahi Rabbil 'Alimeen wa as Salatu wa as Salamu 'ala Sayyidil Mursaleeni wa 'ala Aalihi wa Ashaabihij Ajma'een. Ameen!