

The Indian EXPRESS

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“Jaffri, Setalvad meet SIT, ask probe into Modi’s role”

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Gandhinagar, May 26

During her 30-minute long interaction with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday, Zakia Jaffri mainly focussed on a meeting of February 27, 2002 where Chief Minister Narendra Modi allegedly directed the police “to remain silent and allow Hindus to vent their anger”.

After the interaction, Zakia, the widow of the slain Congress MP Ehsan Jaffri, told mediapersons that she requested the SIT to probe, among other things, Modi’s alleged instructions to senior police officers and bureaucrats at the February 27 meeting “to keep mum and not to act against the rioters”.

The meeting called by the CM to review the law and order situation arising out of the torching of Sabarmati Express at Godhra on that fateful day had been attended by some ministers, the then ACS (Home) Ashok Narayan and state DGP K Chakravarti.

“I have also requested the SIT to thoroughly probe the role of Modi and 62 others in the post-Godhra riots. SIT chief R K Raghavan has assured me that his team will inquire into all the questions I raised in my petition filed in the Supreme Court,” Zakia said.

Teesta Setalvad of the Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and Zakia’s son Tanvir were also present during the interaction with the SIT. Later, Setalvad told mediapersons that she had urged Raghavan to conduct a thorough probe into “the criminal conspiracy hatched by the CM”, and also summon Modi and 62 others for a probe into their role in the 2002 communal carnage.

Setalvad, also a co-petitioner in the case, said she had requested the SIT to take note of slain BJP leader Haren Pandya’s statement, who had in May 2002 told the Concerned People’s Tribunal headed by Justice (retd) Krishna Aiyar on what had transpired at the February 27 meeting called by Modi.

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“SIT begins probe into role of Modi, first call to Jaffri”

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The SIT on Tuesday began probing the role, if any, of Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 62 others in the 2002 riots in Gujarat which officially left 1,180 dead.

The Supreme Court’s order to the SIT followed a complaint filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of former Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, who was among those killed in the Gulbarg Society massacre during the riots. Besides seeking a probe into the role of the 63 persons, Zakia had also raised several other questions.

“We began the inquiry today into Zakia Jafri’s petition by calling the petitioner herself to our office in Gandhinagar. We had a long interaction with her, and she narrated the allegations she made in her petition,” said SIT chief and former CBI Director R K Raghavan.

During her half-an-hour interaction, Zakia mainly focused on a meeting of February 27, 2002 where she alleged Chief Minister Narendra Modi had directed the police “to remain silent and allow Hindus to vent their anger”. The meeting called by the CM to review the law and order situation arising out of the torching of Sabarmati Express at Godhra was attended by some ministers, the then ACS (Home) Ashok Narayan and DGP K Chakravarti.

“I have requested the SIT to thoroughly probe the role of Modi and other 62 persons in the post-Godhra riots. The SIT chief has assured me that his team will inquire into all the questions raised in the petition filed in the Supreme Court,” Zakia said later.

Teesta Setalvad of the Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) and Zakia’s son Tanvir were also present during the interaction. A co-petitioner, Teesta said she had also requested the SIT to take note of the late BJP leader Haren Pandya’s statement before the Concerned People’s Tribunal, headed by Justice Krishna Aiyar, on what transpired at the February 27 meeting.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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“SIT begins probe into Zakia Jafri’s petition”

Post Godhra Riots: Ex-MP’s Widow Had Filed Complaint Against Modi, 62 Others

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday initiated an inquiry into the complaint filed by former MP Ahsan Jafri’s widow Zakia Jafri against Chief Minister Narendra Modi and 62 others.

SIT chief RK Raghavan along with other members met Zakia and CJP secretary Teesta Setalvad who made their submissions before the investigating agency.

Addressing mediapersons after the meeting with the complainant, Raghavan said, “We had first interaction with the complainant to find out what happened on the day of the riots. This is the first stage and we have a plan of action for investigation and it has to be conducted in an orderly manner to be fair to the petitioner as well as the accused.”

He declared that the investigation against Modi, his ministers and top bureaucrats and police officials has “officially” begun upon SC directions. Raghavan, however, avoided to answer the question whether they would interrogate Modi along with 62 others.

“We will proceed depending on the need of the investigations. As and when the facts evolve, whatever required by the law will be thoroughly investigated. Looking at the petition, we might examine other witnesses too,” he replied.

When asked about the delay in appointing special public prosecutors for conducting trial in nine cases SIT has investigated, the former CBI chief said that the process to finalise the list of lawyers is in final stage and SIT would send the tentative list of prosecutors to the state home department in couple of days.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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“Zakia, Setalvad reveal conspiracy theory”

Ahmedabad: After their meeting with SIT officials, Teesta Setalvad, Zakia Jafri and her son Tanvir said that Raghavan had assured them that SIT will probe all allegations of criminal conspiracy in detail. During meeting, the three told SIT that there were certain instances that allude to a possible conspiracy during riots. They cited former minister Haren Pandya's deposition before a citizen tribunal in 2002. The then minister had in 2002 stated that Modi had conducted a meeting on evening of February 27, 2002, the day a bogie of Sabarmati Express was torched. Former home minister told tribunal that the CM had categorically instructed ministers, cops and bureaucrats to allow members of the Hindu community to 'vent' their ire. According to Setalvad, Pandya had revealed before the forum that besides his ministers, Modi had addressed then DGP AK Chakravarty and secretary Ashok Narayan and allegedly instructed them not to stop Hindus from rioting after the Godhra carnage. TNN

Ahmedabad MIRROR

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“Jafri’s widow testifies against Narendra Modi”

Tells SIT that the CM had presided over a cabinet meeting on February 27, 2002, after the Godhra incident and advised his officials not to interfere with expression of anger by Hindus

AHMEDABAD MIRROR BUREAU

Jakia Jafri, widow of former Congress Member of Parliament Iqbal Ehsan Jafri who was killed in the Gulberg Society massacre and human rights activist Teesta Setalvad held a joint press conference on Tuesday after they were summoned by the Supreme Court appointed SIT probing the 2002 riots cases.

The SC had recently ordered the SIT to probe within three months, a complaint that Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi, his cabinet colleagues, police officials and senior bureaucrats abetted post-Godhra riots in 2002.

Jafri said, “The SIT had summoned me to probe the complaint I had filed. I told them that on February 27, 2002, CM Narendra Modi had called for a meeting with his ministers in his chamber. Some of the others present were Director General of Police K Chakravarthy, police officer Ashok Narayan and former home minister Haren Pandya. In that meeting Modi had said that on February 28, which was to be observed as Gujarat bandh, people would vent their anger and they should not be stopped.”

Setalvad said that when the riots broke out on February 28, 2002, residents of Gulbarg Society had asked for police protection, which they did not get. “Also, no curfew was imposed at riot-affected areas. It only goes on to show that Modi’s instructions were being implemented by the police. They allowed the Hindus to do what they wanted and left people to die. SIT has assured us that they shall investigate into the matter and the accused shall be interrogated. If needed, they will also summon us again,” said Setalvad.

A significant part of Jafri’s complaint was the allegation that Modi, as the Chief Minister, presided over a cabinet meeting on February 27, 2002, after the burning of the Sabarmati Express at Godhra, and advised his officials not to interfere with the expression of anger by Hindus the following day. She claimed that this was corroborated by the testimony of the slain former home minister, Haren Pandya, to a Citizen’s Panel, which inquired into the pogrom. This panel comprised Justice V R Krishna Iyer and Justice P B Sawant, former judges of the Supreme Court.

IN HER FIR, JAFRI HAS NAMED CHIEF MINISTER NARENDRA MODI AND 62 PEOPLE, INCLUDING CURRENT AND FORMER MINISTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS AS THE ACCUSED. HERE'S THE LIST:

- **Ashok Bhatt**, Law Minister
- **Gordhan Zadaphiya**, former home minister
- **Ranjitsingh Chawda**, MLA and former minister for cottage industries
- **Kaushik Patel**, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management
- **Indravijaysinh Jadeja**, Minister for Road and Buildings, Capital Projects
- **Prabhatsinh Chauhan**, minister for Cow breeding, Devasthan Management & Pilgrimage Tribal Development and MLA from Kalol
- **CD Patel**, minister for Tourism, Holy Places, Pilgrimages
- **Niteenbhai Patel**, former MLA in 2002
- **Amitbhai Shah**, Home Minister
- **Anil Tribhovandas Patel**, Minister of Industries
- **Narayan Lalludas Patel**, then Minister of Transport
- **Kalubhai Hirabhai Maliwad**, MLA from Lunawada
- **Dilipbhai Patel**, Anand MLA
- **Madhu Srivastava**, MLA from Waghodiya constituency
- **Dr Maya Kodnani**, elected MLA in 2002
- **Nalin Kantilal Bhatt**, General Secretary, Bhartiya Janata Party
- **Rajendra Sing Rana**, BJP spokesperson
- **Dr Kaushikbhai Mehta**, Joint Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad
- **Dr Praveen Togadia**, International general secretary, VHP
- **Dr Jaideep Patel**, Gujarat Secretary, Vishwa Hindu Parishad
- **Babu Bajrangi** , Member Bajrangdal, VHP.
- **Prof Keshavram Shastri**, Chairman, VHP, Gujarat
- **Babubhai Rajput**, BJP worker,
- **K Chakravarti**, former Director General of Police
- **A K Bhargava**, Former DGP
- **Subha Rao**, former chief secretary
- **Ashok Narayan**, former home secretary

- **P C Pande**, former commissioner of police, Ahmedabad
- **K Srinivasan**, former collector of Ahmedabad.
- **Dr PK Mishra**, additional secretary, ministry of home affairs
- **Kuldeep Sharma**, presently ADGP (training)
- **M K Tandon**, Additional CP Ahmedabad in 2002
- **K Nityananand**, presently commissioner of police, Rajkot city
- **Rakesh Asthana**, IPS, 1984, then Vadodara Range
- **A K Sharma**, former SP Mehsana
- **G C Murmu**, Secretary, Law and Order
- **Shivanand Jha**, home secretary
- **D H Brahmhatt**, collector, Panchmahals,
- **Deepak Swaroop**, commissioner of police, Vadodara
- **Sudhir Sinha**, commissioner of Police, Surat
- **K Kumarswami**, IGP Intelligence
- **B S Jabaliya**, District Police Chief, Anand
- **D G Vanzara**, former DIGP Ahmedabad Crime Branch
- **Satish Verma**, Batch 1986 IPS formerly Range DIGP Kutch
- **Raju Bhargava**, SP, Sabrakantha
- **Anju Sharma**, then Collector Bharuch District
- **DD Tuteja**, then Commissioner of Police, Vadodara
- **Bhagyesh Jha**, Director of Information, I & B Department
- **Nitiraj Solanki**, then SP, Sabarkantha District
- **Amrutlal Patel**, Collector of Administration, ISRO
- **Upendra Singh**, in 2002 SP, Rakjot District.
- **PN Patel** in 2002, collector, Rajkot District
- **V M Pargi**, Addl. C P Vadodara
- **K G Erda**, presently police inspector, Tithal Road, Valsad.
- **Kerman Khurshed Mysorewala**, Reader to DIGP, Gandhinagar Range
- **M T Rana**, Assistant Police Commissioner, G-Division
- **Tarun Barot**, PI, Crime Branch
- **Narendra Amin**, DCP Crime Branch

- **G C Raiger**, the then ADGP – Intelligence
 - **K R Kaushik**, former Commissioner of Police
 - **Amitabh Pathak**, Range IG of Gandhinagar Range.
 - **Satish Verma**, at present S R P, Training Centre, Junagadh.
- (Designations as mentioned in the FIR)

Ahmedabad MIRROR

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“SIT may grill Modi”

R K Raghavan says he does not rule out questioning Modi, his Cabinet colleagues, police officials and senior bureaucrats

GANDHINAGAR: The Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday did not rule out questioning Narendra Modi over fresh allegations that the Gujarat Chief Minister and his administration had abetted the post-Godhra riots in 2002.

“I don’t rule out anything at all,” SIT chief R K Raghavan told reporters.

Raghavan said this in response to a volley of questions over whether his team would quiz the BJP leader following the direction by the Supreme Court on May one to the SIT to probe within three months the complaint that Modi, his cabinet colleagues, police officials and senior bureaucrats allegedly had a role in the communal riots.

“We will proceed depending on the need of the investigations and as and when the facts evolve, whatever required by the law will be thoroughly investigated,” he said.

“It can be officially said we have begun inquiry into the petition filed in the Supreme Court against some of the leading politicians in Gujarat,” Raghavan said.

We had first interaction with the lady (Jakia Jafri) to find out what happened on the day of the riots (February 28, 2002). After looking at the petition, we will do some exercise and examine some more witnesses and undertake action according to law.

This is just the first stage, we are having a plan of action for the investigations and it has to be conducted in an orderly manner to be fair to the petitioner as well as the accused,” he said.

‘WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME READY’

RAGHAVAN ALSO said that the SIT was ready with the witness protection scheme, involving the state and central forces.

“Our witness protection scheme is ready. Protection (to witnesses) will be given by mixed forces — state police and central paramilitary forces.

“We have to decide at the exact numbers,” he said. “I will be writing to the Union Home Secretary and making a request for paramilitary forces,” he said.

“I have also requested the state Director General of Police (DGP) to place at my disposal an officer of the rank of SP (superintendent of police) who will solely be incharge of witness protection.”

The DNA

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ALL THOSE NAMED DURING PROBE WILL BE INTEROGATED, TRIED ACCORDING TO LAW

AS AND WHEN FACTS EVOLVE, ACCUSED WILL BE QUESTIONED, SAYS SIT CHIEF RAGHAVAN

“GULBARG GORE”

Teesta, Jakia Jafri depose before SIT

Roxy Gagdekar.

All those people names are disclosed during the course of the investigations of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be interrogated and prosecuted according to the law, SIT Chairman RK Raghavan said on Tuesday.

“We will take legal action against everyone found guilty during our investigations,” he said at a press conference at the SIT office in Gandhinagar.

The SIT has begun the examination of the complaint filed by Jakia Jafri, wife of slain MP Ahesan Jafri, and will call on the parties named in the same if required.

The SIT on Tuesday questioned Jafri on the happenings at Gulbarg Society on February 28, 2002, when her husband and others were killed by a mob. “This is just the first stage. We have a plan of action first stage. We have a plan of action for the investigation, which will be conducted in an orderly maner so as to be fair to the petitioner as well as the accused,” Raghavan said.

The Supreme Court had ordered the SIT to investigate within three months the complaint in which Jafri accused Gujarat chief minister, his cabinet colleagues, police officials and senior bureaucrats of abetting the post Godhra riots.

Raghavan said the SIT will proceed according to the requirements of their investigation. As and when facts evolve, whatever required by the law will be thoroughly investigated into, he said.