

# Citizens for Justice and Peace

---

August 13, 2012

To  
Commissioner of Police  
Mumbai  
Shri Arup Patnaik

Dear Sir,

As citizens of Mumbai committed to the rule of law and human rights for all, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the manner in which the Mumbai Police under your stewardship handled the potentially explosive situation at Azad Maidan on Saturday. Though better preparedness and bandobast *before the protest* would have undoubtedly helped, once violence broke out, the mature and handling by the police without being further provoked by the behavior of the protesters ensured that the situation was brought under control, and that a potentially volatile situation did not spread to other areas. Sir it is critical to ensure that there is no further fallout of Saturday's violence.

We would also like to condemn of the use of provocative slogans and resort to violence by some of those on the stage and in the crowd assembled to protest, as reported in the media. We strongly condemn the attack on policemen and misbehavior with women police officers as has been also alleged in media reports that must have caused deep anger among the law and order enforcement machinery. The attack on the media is most deplorable, as also the destruction of public property. Any issues that any individual or group has with the media, selective portrayals or biases—if any-- need to be furthered through discussion and dialogue not violence and instigation.

While the right to protest is a democratic right, the duty and responsibility of peaceful protest must lie with not just the authorities but responsibility must also be taken by organizers. (Justice Srikrishna in his report on the 1q992-1993

violence, had, relying on the earlier recommendations of the Justice DP Madon Commission report that were never implemented, recommended that deposits need to be obtained from organizers of protests to ensure that damages for any losses could be recovered from this deposit). We suggest that the Mumbai police immediately apply this recommendation.

There have been reports that some provocative photographs of the situation in Burma were shown or talked of and the appeals to the media made. In this connection we would like to offer the following information. Since mid-June 2012, photographs allegedly depicting the horrific plight of the *Rohingyas, who happen to be Muslims of Burma* have been widely circulated on the internet. **(Annexure A)**

Yesterday, after Saturday's violence, as we were checking the authenticity of these out, we found, that some, though not all of them were actually not of authentic and were altered/morphed on the computer. This information has also been put out by a blogger who appears to be from Pakistan. We attach some of these below for your consideration.

We would also like to humbly state that reviving the vibrant and collective effort of the *Mohalla Committee*—with ordinary citizens not politicians—is critical given that misconceptions and misgivings must have been caused across communities after Saturday's incident. This is also necessary to ensure that there is no spill over resentment and anger with other, ordinary Muslims following the conduct of a handful of compatriots of the community on Saturday. The month of Ramzan, followed by Eid after which the festival of Ganesh Chaturthi will be both a strain and challenge to the Mumbai police. We hope that under your leadership, maturity and calm governs public behavior, not retaliation by the police or provocation by any other sections of society.

Yours Sincerely,

Teesta Setalvad  
Secretary

Javed Anand  
Trustee

Other trustees:

IM Kadri (President), Nandan Maluste (Vice President),  
Arvind Krishnaswamy (Treasurer), Alyque Padamsee, Cyrus Guzder, Anil  
Dharker, Javed Akhtar, Ghulam Pesh Imam, Rahul Bose, Cedric Prakash

Annexure A

## Social media is lying to you about Burma's Muslim 'cleansing'

[Faraz Ahmed](#) July 19, 2012

Social networking sites are abuzz with news about Muslims being killed [in Burma](#). You can see the sporadic posting of pictures by different people with captions like 'Muslims killing in Burma', 'Muslims slaughtered by Buddhists in Burma' and so on.

Thus, I took on the mission to sort the truth out for myself once and for all and researched some pictures that I felt were dubious. Below are a few pictures and their original copies. You can evidently see the gross difference between them and how they are thrown out of context.

This was a picture shared on



Facebook. **The Body of Muslims slaughtered By Buddhist(Barma)**

I have [found the original version](#) which reads differently to the the one posted on the social networking site.



This picture was taken in 2010 after an earthquake in China and captures the efforts put in by the Tibetans to help rescue the victims. Now, Islamic political parties and some other elements are sharing this image as Muslim killing and their slaughter in Burma.

Another widely circulated picture captioned “More then 1,000 people killed in Burma” is also fake.



The original, as you can see below, is taken in Thailand in the year 2004. This picture shows protesters that were tear-gassed outside the Tal Bai police station in Bangkok. This is roughly 1,409.9 km away from Burma! What is grossly negligent about these photos is the factual ignorance of the hate these misleading photos can culminate.

## 400 Arrested protesters



BC / Reuters

**BANGKOK** -At least two Muslim protesters killed in southern Thailand Monday in clashing with security forces. Incident was the worst in the area in the next few months. Demonstrators demand the release of six volunteers who were arrested with charges of government-owned firearms surrender to militant groups.

Dozens of injured people outside the police station in Narathiwat, one of three southern provinces where more than 360 people died in unrest since

January.

Thai television showing pictures army in full uniform fired *water cannon* and tear gas to dissolve more than 1,500 protesters who had surrounded the Tak Bai police station since Monday morning.

The authorities say two to three protesters killed and two soldiers to the safe though they hurt. Around 400 protesters were arrested and detained, according to television reports. Authorities to exercise at night from 22:00 pm until 6:00 the next morning in the area. (Rtr-31)

---

[Main News](#) | [Economy](#) | [International](#) | [Athletics](#)  
[Semarang](#) | [Sala](#) | [Pantura](#) | [Muria](#) | [Kedu & DIY](#) | [Banyumas](#)  
[Culture](#) | [Discourse](#)  
[Cybernews](#) | [News Yesterday](#)

---

Copyright © 1996-2004 Voice LIBERTY

Below, please find another image which was posted online, this time with an imprint of Jamaat-e-Islami on the top left . It reads ‘Terrorists of Buddhism of Burma kills 500 Muslims’.

As you can guess, this is also a fabricated picture.



جماعت اسلامی پاکستان  
Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan  
Terrorists of Buddhism of Burma Kills 500 Muslims at the Beach of Bay of Bangal today – Massacre is Continuously Going On  
Please SHARE for the Awareness & Awakening

In reality, this image belongs to a Human Rights violation incident by the [Thai authorities](#) against the Rohingya ethnic minority of Burma. These refugees were detained for a few weeks and then sent off drifting into the sea.

Here is another instance of such fallacy spreading across the social media sites regarding the massacre of Muslims in Burma.



[534927\\_387633624629469\\_2](#)

[facebook.com](#)

403 × 403 - Photo: Stop Killing Muslims in Burma (Myanmar)

This picture is extremely misleading considering that the original image was about the riots in Thailand that took place in 2003!

Now, take a look at the image below and observe how it is blown out of context.

**Wall Photos**  
Back to Album · InsAan BAñ ... ZaRDaRi na Ban ... :P's Photos · InsAan BAñ ... ZaRDaRi na Ban ... :P's Page Previous · Next



[www.facebook.com/Siyasi.Records](http://www.facebook.com/Siyasi.Records)

**InsAan BAñ ... ZaRDaRi na Ban ... :P**  
This is Media :@ A Muslim was burned in Burma and Journalist are Taking pictures instead of saving him !! WTF

Album: Wall Photos  
Shared with: Public

Download  
Report This Photo

Muhammad Younus, Kamran Sheikh, Bushra Raheel and 164 others like this.  
175 shares

- Assho Baba SO SAD:(**  
12 hours ago · 1
- Sara Khan ٴ**  
12 hours ago · 1
- Momina Malique astaghfaar**  
12 hours ago · 1
- Ordinary Aquarian dead frm inside MF**  
12 hours ago
- Ziyan Warsi Hw could u vryfy dts the brng man s a muslim**  
12 hours ago · 1
- InsAan BAñ ... ZaRDaRi na Ban ... :P Ziyan Warsi.. now a days thousand of muslims are being killed in Burma !! and he's 1 of them !!**  
12 hours ago

Now, view the original.

## Tibetan Activist Sets Himself On Fire To Protest Chinese President's Visit To India [PHOTOS]

By [DAVE SMITH](#) [Subscribe to Dave Smith's RSS feed](#)  
March 27, 2012 4:12 PM EDT



### Tibetan Activist Sets Himself On Fire To Protest Chinese President's Visit To India [PHOTOS]

Prior to the arrival of Chinese president Hu Jintao in the Indian capital of Delhi, a Tibetan activist named Jamphel Yeshi [set himself on fire](#) in protest during a demonstration, suffering severe burns that covered most of his body. The 27-year-old Tibetan exile ran screaming down the street as flames licked at his body before he collapsed on the ground, where fellow protesters tried to beat out the flames.

Once Yeshi's inferno was finally put out, Indian doctors transported him to a local hospital.

"His condition is very critical," said Sonam Wangyal, one of Yeshi's cousins. "The doctors had to do an

The original picture is not even remotely close to what the picture above states. In fact, a Tibetan protester had set himself on fire in protest prior to the arrival of Chinese president Hu Jintao and that too in Delhi.

I do not deny the killings of Muslims in Burma – not even for a minute.



I think it is horrific and I am sympathetic towards the immense loss being suffered by my Muslim brothers and sisters abroad. **What I am against is being lied to.**

Imagine the amount of lies we are being fed through these pictures. How can one trust any image online if such drastic manipulation and editing is being done to cater to someone's political or personal agenda?'

Social media and networking sites, if used properly, can be an impressive tool in spreading awareness amongst its users, but it can be an equally dangerous median as well if misused.

These images are false and are only igniting hatred and prejudice in our youth.

We need to become more vigilant and aware of the credibility and authenticity of pictures we browse through. It only takes one wrong image to push us over the edge towards extremism.

Who do you think is more misleading?