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Gujarat EDN 11nov09

Jafri had called CM for help, Parzania mother tells court

Rupa Mody, whose son Azhar was never found and whose story inspired Bollywood movie Parzania, confirms deposition of another witness Imtiaz who was present when former MP Jafri called Narendra Modi for help

AHMEDABAD MIRROR BUREAU

Rupa Mody, whose 14-year-old son Azhar had gone missing during the Gulbarg Society massacre in 2002, has said that former MP Ehsan Jafri, who was killed in the incident, had called up Chief Minister Narendra Modi for help but received abuses instead.

Rupa Mody, whose son Azhar was never found and whose story inspired Bollywood movie 'Parzania', took two days — November 9 and 10 — to narrate the horror she witnessed on February 28, 2002 in the designated court of Judge B U Joshi.

Rupa, who lived in Gulbarg Society, had taken shelter in Jafri's twostoreyed house after riots broke out in the city following the Godhra Express fire that killed 59 kar sevaks. She said, "There were 103 people in Jafri's house. I called the then police commissioner and asked for help, but no one came. Suddenly an explosion took place and we realised that the mob had used an LPG cylinder to blow up the society wall. They were carrying knives and swords. Many of them were pelting stones and throwing burning rags at vehicles and into houses. I saw this from the window of Jafri's house."

She added, "The mob killed Imtiaz Pathan's uncle Aslam who was standing outside the house. Seeing this, my son Azhar warned me against putting my hands out of the window or 'the mob will cut it off like they did Aslam's'.

CM ABUSED JAFRI

"JAFRI, WHO was on the second floor, came down and we asked him what he was doing to get help. He told me that he had called up Modi but had received only abuses in return."

Last week, Imtiaz Pathan — the first witness who deposed in the Gulbarg Society massacre case — had told the court that Jafri had called Modi for help in his presence. When asked about Modi's response, the slain MP had replied that Modi instead of sending help used offensive language on phone, Imtiaz told court.

Rupa said, "The mob had surrounded the house and Jafri decided to go out even though we urged him not to. The moment they saw him, the mob dragged Jafri away. A burning rag fell on me and I fell unconscious. Azhar was standing beside me. When I regained consciousness, Azhar was nowhere to be seen. I took my daughter and ran outside."

When she came out of the house after the police arrived, Rupa said she saw four-five naked bodies, including women, lying in front of the house. The bodies had a number of wounds on them, she said, identifying some of them.

“I was searching for Azhar when a cop asked me what I was looking for. I told him my son was wearing a red T-shirt. The cop asked me not to worry as they had custody of a boy wearing a red outfit. But he was not my son.”

COPS FORGED STATEMENT

SHE ALSO told the court that the police had forged her statement dated July 1, 2002. “The signature was quite like mine, but I did not sign it,” said Rupa.

Rupa also alleged that the policemen got her to change her statement before the Nanavati Commission. “The policemen told me that if I told the panel that they had arrived to help us before 5 pm, they will find my child. I trusted them and did what they asked,” she said.

She also said that the then Meghaninagar Inspector Erda had introduced her to Dr Atul Vaidya and Bharat Teli, both accused in the riot case, saying they would help her look for Azhar.

“Later, Erda took me to his police station in a jeep and asked me to sign a statement they had prepared saying the Meghaninagar cops had arrived at Gulbarg by 3.30 pm. But I refused,” she said.

CALL DETAILS STILL MISSING

SOCIAL ACTIVIST **Teesta Setalvad** and retired DGP **R B Sreekumar** were also present in court on both days.

Teesta told mediapersons: “An affidavit was filed in the Supreme Court that Jafri had made 150-200 calls to politicians and top police officials, pleading for protection from the mob that had surrounded Gulbarg.

“However, till date, the cops have been unable to retrieve the call details.”

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/11/11/stories/2009111157600100.htm>

11nov09

SIT records Rupa Modi’s statement in Gulberg Society case

Manas Dasgupta

SIT questions former Gujarat Minister I.K. Jadeja

AHMEDABAD: The Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team, looking into some of the massacres during the post-Godhra communal riots in Gujarat in 2002, on Tuesday recorded the statement of Rupa Modi in connection with the Gulberg Society incident in Ahmedabad. She is the mother of the “missing” Azhar and lived with the hope of her son being alive, until the police declared all the missing “dead” after the expiry of seven years.

The feature film *Parzania* was based on Ms. Modi and her family, projecting the parents’ agonising wait for the return of the missing son. The film was not allowed to be screened in Gujarat.

Ms. Modi reportedly told SIT that despite repeated calls by the former Congress member of the Lok Sabha, Ehsan Jafri, who was among the 69 people killed in the Gulberg Society massacre, the police refused to extend any help and allowed the marauding crowd to plunder the Muslim residents. On Monday, SIT called the former Gujarat Minister, I.K. Jadeja, for recording his statement.

<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Scripting/ArticleWin.asp?From=Archive&Source=Page&Skin=TOINew&BaseHref=TOIA/2009/11/11&PageLabel=6&EntityId=Ar00601&ViewMode=HTML&GZ=T>

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GULBARG MASSACRE

Police asked killers to look for Azhar: Rupa Mody

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Rupa Mody, mother of Azhar who went missing from Gulbarg Society on February 28, 2002, told a special court how the local police inspector wanted her to sign a statement saying the police had come on time, before they agreed to look for her son.

Breaking down while narrating the horror of the massacre which took place after the Godhra carnage, Mody recounted how inspector KG Erda offered her help by asking the prime accused in the case — Atul Vaidya and Bharat Taili to look for Azhar. The Modys still have hope that their son is alive and grown-up into a young man of 21 years.

She identified all three of them in the course of her two day cross-examination before judge BU Joshi hearing the case which is under reinvestigation.

Mody recalled how she had called up police commissioner PC Pande for help, informing him that nearly 100 people had taken refuge in ex-MP Ahsan Jafri's house. "When I told the police commissioner regarding our whereabouts, he cut the phone saying that he would get further details and send police force," she said adding how minutes after this, the boundary walls of Gulbarg Society were blasted by the mob with gas cylinders, and people killed mercilessly. She also confirmed the account by earlier witness Imtiyaz Pathan which said how

Jafri was shoued abuses when he called up Chief Minister Narendra Modi for help.

"When we asked him (Jafri) for help he said that he had spoken to Narendra Modi but had got an unfavourable answer," she said adding how the former Parliamentarian had made frantic calls for help. Mody told the court that she was informed by a boy that the rioters had blasted the wall with a gas cylinder and were rushing in. She maintained that police had not come to their rescue despite repeated SOS sent to various authorities.

She again broke down on Monday in the courtroom while narrating how she lost trace of her son after she was hit by a burning rag, which left her unconscious. Mody had further stated that she had seen 4 to 5 naked bodies lying in the Jafri's garden while she was coming out after the police arrived. She stated that the bodies had number of wounds on them and identified them to be of a few women, a man and a child, while she was not able to identify the others.

Parzania, a Bollywood movie was made based on this real life story, which was banned from being screened in Gujarat.

http://epaper.indianexpress.com/IE/IEH/2009/11/11/ArticleHtmls/11_11_2009_605_002.shtml?Mode=1

Gujarat EDN 11nov09

Modi ignored Jafri's plea for help: Rupa Mody
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD,

CHIEF Minister Narendra Modi had not responded to the pleas for help from Congress MP Ehsan Jafri before the massacre began at Gulberg Society in 2002, Rupa Mody, who lost her son in the killings, told the specially designated trial court in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. CHIEF Minister Narendra Modi had not responded to the pleas for help from Congress MP Ehsan Jafri before the massacre began at Gulberg Society in 2002, Rupa Mody, who lost her son in the killings, told the specially designated trial court in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Her deposition tallies with the one given before the court by another eyewitness to the massacre, Imtiaz Pathan. Rupa had lost her eight-year-old son Azhar in the Gulberg Society massacre and her story had later inspired the Hindi movie, Parzania. The movie was not screened in Gujarat following widespread opposition by the saffron brigade in the state.

Rupa told the court that on February 28, 2002 when Gulberg Society residents were attacked by a communal mob, Jafri had told her about his telephonic conversation with Narendra Modi requesting him for protection. Jafri had also told Rupa that he did not get appropriate answer from the CM, she stated in the court.

Rupa identified some of the accused in the case allegedly involved in the carnage and instigating the mob.

She further told the court that 2-3 months after the incident, the then police inspector of Meghaninagar police station, KG Erda, also one of the accused in the case, had made her sign an affidavit in his favour in connivance with two other accused, Dr Atul Vaidhya and Bharat Teli.

She said the three had assured her that they will help her in finding out her missing son. According to Rupa, she also had a telephonic conversation with the then Police Commissioner of Ahmedabad City, P C Pande and that she had requested him to provide police protection. She said the Commissioner had even asked her about the number of the people stranded in the society but no help was sent. Rupa said the attack actually intensified immediately after her conversation with Pande.

She said with no state help coming their way, Jafri decided to surrender himself before the mob to save the lives of those who had taken shelter inside his house.

Rupa said that her son was with her at Jafri's residence till she was hit by a burning rag and fell unconscious. When she regained consciousness, her son was missing.

Special Public Prosecutor R K Shah and his assistant Nayana Bhatt examined Rupa. She was cross-examined by defence lawyer Mitesh Amin.

<http://epaper.dnaindia.com/dnaahmedabad/epapermain.aspx?queryed=5&username=&useremailid=&parenteditioncode=5&eddate=11/11/2009>

Gujarat EDN 11nov09

I begged for help from police commissioner, Rupa Mody tells court

She says the phone was disconnected minutes after she made the plea

Roshan Kumar. Ahmedabad

Rupa Mody, whose son Azhar Mody went missing after the Gulbarg society massacre in 2002, told the fast-track court of Judge BU Joshi that she had phoned the then Ahmedabad police commissioner PC Pande for help.

"I phoned the city commissioner of police and told him that I, along with my two kids and hundreds of other people, had taken shelter at former Congress MP Ahesan Jafri's house," Mody said. She added that, minutes later, the phone was disconnected. Rupa Mody's deposition and subsequent cross-examination took place in the fast-track court in the city on Monday and Tuesday.

Mody also told the court that when she saw a huge mob entering the Gulbarg society campus, she and another person, Imtiaz, had rushed to Jafri and asked him to save them. Jafri, who was talking on the phone at the time, told them later that he had called Narendra Modi and the CM had abused him.

She told the court that when she learnt that the CM had also refused to help, she phoned her brother-in-law, Farad, in desperation. But while she was still talking to Farad on the phone, the riotous mob which had reached Jafri's house by then started pelting stones through the window. Mody said she had pleaded to the mob to spare her and her children as they were neither Hindu nor Muslim but Parsis. "But someone from the mob shouted: 'You did not spare our mothers or children; so we, too will show you no mercy'," she told the court. By then, the mob had attacked Aslam Khan Pathan and dragged him out of the house.

In an effort to save herself and her children, she put her hands out through the window of Jafri's house and pleaded with the crowd to spare them. "When I put my hand out and asked for mercy, my son, Azhar, asked me not to put my hands out through the window as the crowd would do to her what it had done to 'Aslam uncle'," Mody said.

The crowd had now started throwing burning torches and stones inside Ahesan Jafri's house. Mody told the court that in an effort to save others from the fury of the crowd, Jafri had even wanted to go out and face the mob, but he was stopped from doing that.

<http://epaper.dnaindia.com/dnaahmedabad/epapermain.aspx?queryed=5&username=&useremailid=&parenteditioncode=5&eddate=11%2f11%2f2009>

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Rupa Mody identifies Erda, others in court

In jam-packed courtroom, Gulbarg survivor narrates the hell she has been through

DNA Correspondent. Ahmedabad

In a jam-packed courtroom of judge BU Joshi, Gulbarg society survivor Rupa Mody narrated her plight, a true story that was captured in the movie Parzania. In the court, she identified the then police inspector of Meghaninagar, KG Erda.

Rupa lived under Erda's jurisdiction and the inspector was supposed to take care of her safety in the height of the riots. But Erda not only remained indifferent to the happenings at Gulbarg, but also later got her signature in an affidavit the contents of which were fake.

On Tuesday, prime accused in the case, VHP leader Atul Vaidya, BJP leaders Pradeep Parmar, ex-councillor Chunilal Prajapati and sitting councillor Bipin Patel, and another accused Bharat Teli, were also present in the court. Rupa identified them all. A grim-looking Rupa reached the fast track court, accompanied by three women CISF personnel. She is one of few select witnesses in the riot cases who have been provided security cover.

None of her family members and relatives accompanied Rupa. Rupa, along with her husband and two children, lived in Gulbarg society at the time of the riots. They lost their son Azar in the riots. Now they live with their daughter in Thaltej area. Rupa, after taking oath in Parsi, was asked several questions about the incident by defence as well as prosecution lawyers. She sobbed many a times while narrating the sad incident of her son who went missing in the riots. Sixty-nine persons were killed in the Gulbarg society incident.

She told the court that she had filed the application for reinvestigation of the case on her own and had not taken any help of any lawyers or NGO activists. She told the court that she had been living in Gulbarg society seven years prior the incident and she knew Ahasan Jafri as Jafri was society's chairman.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/cm-didnt-respond-to-jafri-plea-rupa-mody/539946/>

11 Nov 09

CM didn't respond to Jafri plea: Rupa Mody

[Express News Service](#)

Ahmedabad: In another significant deposition before the specially-designated trial court in Ahmedabad, Rupa Mody, who lost her eight-year-old son in the 2002 Gulberg massacre, said Chief Minister Narendra Modi had not responded to pleas for help from slain Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, before the killings began.

Rupa lost her son Azhar during the Gulberg carnage, and her story had later inspired the popular Hindi film, Parzania. The film was not screened in Gujarat following widespread opposition against it by the saffron brigade in the state. Her deposition tallied with a similar one before the court by another eyewitness to the massacre, Imtiaz Pathan.

Rupa, who broke down several times during her deposition, told the court that on February 28, 2002 when Gulberg Society was under attack by the communal mob, Jafri had told her that he had called up Narendra Modi to get help but did not get any appropriate response.

Rupa had identified some of the accused in the case allegedly involved in conducting the carnage and instigating the mob. She also told the court how, after two-three months of the incident, the then police inspector of Meghaninagar Police Station K G Erda, who is also one of the accused in the case, made her sign an affidavit in his favour, in connivance with two other accused of the case, Dr Atul Vaidhya and Bharat Teli. She said the three had given her an assurance that they would help her find her missing son, Azhar.