

## **‘INSAF KI DAGAR PAR’ - REPORT**

### **Background for ‘INSAF KI DAGAR PAR’:-**

2002 carnage completed its 10 years in this February 2012. Issue of justice to the victims is not tackled fully. Livelihood, Education, Housing Rights are some of the pending tasks. Security and dignity are still a far cry. The state Government is neither taking responsibility nor taking the care of marginalized minority. Though on this path we are able to achieve a bit in the name of justice, it is a long way to go with our strong will and fighting spirit to realize our dream of secular democracy.

On the other hand, in the name of development the government is playing with the lives of the Poor, the Farmers, the Fisher-folk, landless people, Dalits, Tribals and Women all over the state. But these sections are no more “the suffering silent”. The voices are rising from here and there. It is the need of an hour to take the stock of the last decade and raise our voice of dissent against this ‘development without justice’.

From 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 37 organizations of Gujarat unitedly organized a commemorial program of 11 days in which tried to address the issues of justice to the carnage victims and regaining their fundamental rights also. Besides this, the speakers raised united voices against unjust pattern of so called development of the state and the country. Thus, this was a collective attempt to claim human rights.

These events were thought and planned since 6<sup>th</sup> Of August 2011 till the very eve of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012. Joint efforts of 37 organizers and a hosting committee of eminent citizens made this ambitious task effective. In order to generate a wider publicity, wider reach and better impact, very effective publicity material was designed and was widely circulated / distributed among civil society organizations.

### **PROGRAM REPORT:-**

#### **1. Citizen’s Convention on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 -**

‘INSAF KI DAGAR PAR’ started on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012 with a citizen’s Convention at 2:00 pm, organized by **Peoples’ Union for Civil Liberties and Movement for Secular Democracy** at Mehendi Nawaz Jung hall, Pladi, Ahmedabad. Around 300 people participated in this convention. The Convention deeply felt that 10 years of carnage have passed with subversion of Democracy and in the absence of Rule of Law, Peace, Harmony and Justice. Among the speakers were Sh. Chunibhai Vaidya, Sh. Girishbhai Patel, Sh. Ilaben Pathak, Sh. Sureshbhai Mehta, Sh. Sanjeev Bhatt, Sh. R.B. Sreekumar, Sh. Yashwant Mehta, Sh. Dwarikanath Rath, Sh. Uttambhai Parmar, Sh. Tanveer Jafri, Sh. Gautambhai Thaker, Sh Prakahsbhai Shah and others. Three important resolutions were passed in this convention. The public demonstration which was scheduled to happen at Paldi crossroads at 5: 00 pm, could not take place as the police have cancelled the permission at the very last moment though the audience of nearly 350 voiced the demands for rights, peace and justice in the auditorium. A very impactful beginning of INSAF KI DAGAR PAR got a good media coverage.



**2. Gulberg Society Exhibition & Sufi sangeet on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 -**

**Centre for Justice and Peace** organized exhibition in Gulberg society on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The images of victims of genocide 2002 were displayed in this exhibition. There were some 500 photographs of carnage victims of all over Gujarat which were put on the broken-blackened walls of burnt-deserted homes of Gulberg Society. There was a wish-tree of commitment where upon the victims hung their wishes (aarzoo). For a long lasting commemoration of 2002 violence, a museum is planned to set up at Gulberg society. Almost 500 survivors of the carnage 2002 from across the Gujarat were present at Gulberg society. In the evening, Sufi songs were sung by Shubha Mudgal at Gulberg society. Around 1500 people attended the exhibition on this day. The exhibition was kept open till 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 and many more people visited Gulberg society to view this exhibition. Overall the memorial was experience of sharing, struggle and positive energy of resistance and perseverance for justice.



### **3. Convention on Internally Displaced People on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 -**

**Janvikas** organized the Convention on Internally Displaced People on 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012 at 2:00 pm at Narottam Zaveri Hall, Paldi, Ahmedabad. The status report on Internally Displaced People, prepared by Janvikas was released in a form of a book titled 'Gujarat's Internally Displaced: Ten years later' by Shri Praksh N Shah. Over 450 people attended this convention including the People internally displaced because of genocide 2002. Many eminent speakers like Vijay Prammar and Rohit Prajapati analyzed the present day situation of internally displaced people all over Gujarat. Then the internally displaced people themselves expressed the poor standard of life that they have been living in relief colonies for last 10 years. The poor approach of the state towards IDP was exposed and criticized. The need to create separate rehabilitation policy for IDP was highlighted.



### **4. Screening of a Documentary film 'Jai Bhim Comrade' on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 –**

**Darshan, Himmat and IIMA students' Film Club** organized a film screening of the documentary film 'Jai Bhim Comrade' at 2 pm at IIM, Ahmedabad. This documentary is inspired by the 1997 event in Bombay, when statue of Dr. Ambedkar in a Dalit colony was desecrated with a garland of footwear. As angry residents gathered, police opened fire killing ten angry residents. Vilas Ghogre, a leftist poet, hung himself in protest. The movie depicts (1) The incident of Ramabai colony killings and spreading awareness among the masses regarding the Dalit atrocities that happen during the fourteen years period. (2) The political participation of Dalits, the rise of new leaders among Dalit community, the repression of voices of new leaders by terming them as Naxalite. The director of the film Mr. Anand Patwardhan was present during the screening and the audience had good dialogue and interaction with him after the film screening. Participants appreciated this film and called it a 'New Democratic Revolution'. Around 300 people attended this film screening.



#### **5. Multi-lingual Kavi Sammelan on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 -**

**Darshan and Prashant** organized a Multi-lingual Kavi Sammelan on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 at 8:30 pm at Natrani, Ahmedabad. Total 13 well known poets like Shri Asad Zaidi, Manglesh Dabral, Madan Kashyap, Jameela Nishat, Anshu Malaviya, Kiran Meshram, Loknath Yashwant, Sunil Awachar, Jayant Parmar, Phoolchand Gupta, Neerav Patel and Mehul Makawanapresented their poems in the Sammelan in different languages on themes of Communalism, Unjust development patterns, Marginalization of poor, etc. Around 100 people were present for this Kavi Sammelan.



#### **6. Performance of a play ‘Beech Shahr’ on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 -**

**Darshan and Prashant** jointly organized a play performance of a play ‘Beech Shahr’, written and directed by Ms. Tripurari Sharma. A Delhi based group ‘Alarippu’ performed this play at Natrani at 8:30 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. The play attempts to bring forth a real story of an ordinary man, who managed to accomplish an extra-ordinary task. A common man, who runs a local brewery in Ahmadabad, managed to rescue a group of almost 70 people through giving



them protection and shelter during the genocide 2002. Keeping in mind the various possible points of views that represent both the sides, i.e. that of the offenders and that of the protectors, this play has presented this journey from death to life by using a non-linear narrative. Around 350 people viewed this play performance and appreciated the narration of the other rear side of 2002.



#### 7. Screening of a documentary film 'Roshan Bayan' on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012, **Darshan** organized a film screening of the documentary film 'Roshan Bayan' at 8:30 pm at Natrani, Ahmedabad. This is a film by Mr. Amar Kanwar which reflects upon a history of conflict in the Indian subcontinent through experiences of sexual violence. As the film explores this violence, there emerge multiple submerged narratives, sometimes in people, images and memories, and at other times in objects from nature and everyday life that stand as silent but surviving witnesses. In all narratives the body becomes central - as a site for honor, hatred and humiliation and also for dignity and protest. Around 200 people attended this film screening.



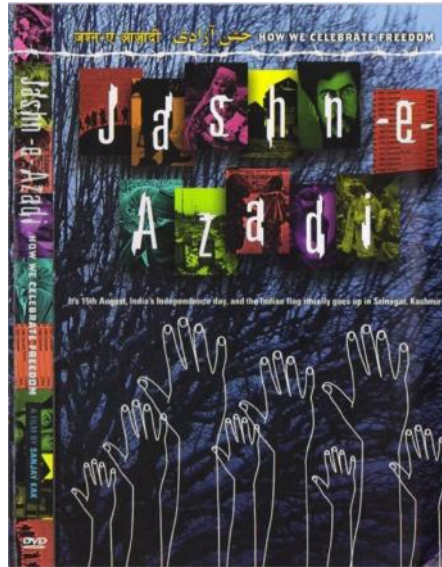
## 8. 'The decade of Development in Gujarat- claims by the Government, People's Movements and ground realities' on 5<sup>th</sup> march 2012 -

Gujarat Sarvodaya Mandal, Sahiyar Stree Sangathan and Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti organized a seminar titled 'The decade of Development in Gujarat- claims by the Government, People's Movements and ground realities' on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Ahimsa Shodh Bhavan, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad. Representatives of peoples' movements from across Gujarat spoke about their respective movement & the issues that the movement addresses. Issues like environmental hazards, livelihood killing projects, issues of labour class, nuclear power related hazards, farmers' suicides, Dalit issues, displacement of Tribes, etc were given proper emphasis in the seminar. The ground realities of all the above mentioned issues with statistical and narrative data were brought into light by scholars and grass root level activists like Rohit Shukla, Rohit Prajapati, Raju Solanki, Bharat Patel, Mahesh Pandya, Ambrish Patel, M S H Shaikh, Fr. Xavier Manjooran, Ghanshyam Patel, Darshini Mahadeviya, Beena Jadav and Trupti Shah, etc. The fables claims of Development by the Gujarat government were thus challenged by people. Around 300 people attended this seminar.



## 9. Screening of a documentary film 'Jashn-e-azadi' on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012, **Darshan** organized a film screening of the documentary film 'Jashn-e-azadi' at 8:30 pm at Natrani, Ahmedabad. This is a film by Mr. Sanjay Kak which explores the implications of the militarization and imprisonment & killings of innocents and fundamental rights of people of Kashmir and their struggle for *Azadi*, for freedom, in the Kashmir valley. Around 150 people attended this film screening.



#### 10. 'Lessons Learnt from Gujarat carnage' on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

**All India Secular Forum and Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution** organized seminar titled 'Lessons Learnt from Gujarat carnage' on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at BSC, Ahmedabad. Around 100 people attended this seminar. Activists who have been actively involved for communal harmony have presented the work they / their organizations did during and post 2002 genocide in Gujarat. Mr. Azgar Ali Engineer, Mr. Harsh Mander, Mr. Ram Puniyani, Mr. Kiran Desai, Mr. Raju Solanki, Ms. Trupti Shah, Ms. Sophia Khan, Mr. Shrikumar, Mr. Prakash Shah, Ms. Sheeba George, Ms. Saroop Dhruv, Mr. D N Rath, Mr. Vijay Parmar, Prof. Juzar Bandukwala etc. shared the lessons they learnt from their work & experiences post 2002 genocide. Some issues like resistance by common man in Mumbai, how Surat was spared during 2002 carnage, pathetic and vulnerable situation of children and women of minority community, justice denied and participation of the state government in gory violence, instrumentalization of Dalits and Tribals and how the saffron forces were active even before BJP rule, etc were shared and discussed in these 2 days.



### 11. 'Dialogues with Survivors' on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, **Nyayagrah** organized 'Dialogues with Survivors' at Chhipa Community Hall, Ahmedabad. Around 250 people attended this program. The survivors of 2002 genocide expressed their feelings of fear, helplessness, hopelessness, etc. The Saviors (those who saved the targeted community) were honored and they also expressed their feelings like act of humanity, Act of pride, Kshtriya dharma, pity for powerless, concern for innocents and humanity, etc. The NGO workers also presented reality from their point of view during and post 2002 genocide.

### 12. Screening of a documentary film 'After the Storm' on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, **Darshan** organized a film screening of the documentary film 'After the Storm' at 8:30 pm at Natrani, Ahmedabad. This is a film by Mr. Shubhradeep Chakravorty which is based on stories of seven former terror accused who secured acquittal through various law courts in past few years. The film narrates their ordeal and miseries and shed light on their current fight for survival. Mr. Shubhradeep Chakravorty remained present during this film screening and later had an active dialogue with audience. Around 150 people attended this film screening.

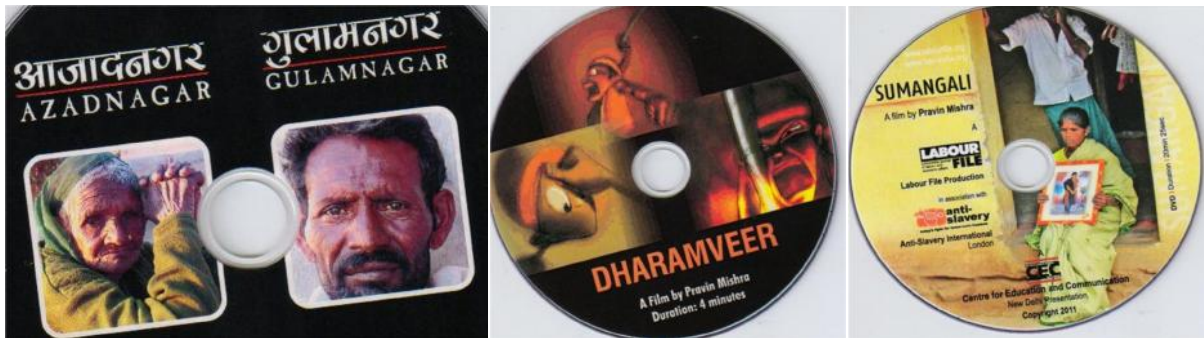


### 13. Screening of documentary films 'Azadnagar Gulamnagar', 'Sumangali' & 'Dharamveer' on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2012 -

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the closing day of 'INSAF KI DAGAR PAR' **Darshan** organized a film screening of the documentary films 'Azadnagar Gulamnagar', 'Sumangali' & 'Dharamveer' at 8:30 pm at Natrani, Ahmedabad. All these three films are made by Mr. Pravin Mishra who remained present during the film screening and later had dialogue with audience. 'Azadnagar Gulamnagar' is about the bonded labour system in which 'Azadnagar' attempts to capture life



after release where as 'Gulamnagar' is shot attempts to capture the situation of existing bonded labours. The film 'Sumangali' describes the 'Sumangali system', a contract labour system in south India where girls are exploited economically through a bonded contract of 3 years. 'Dharamveer' depicts a common man's complex life where She / he is trapped in ideological web by vicious politics and is used by fascist fundamentalist forces in the name of religion by branding him/ her as 'Holy worriers'. Around 200 people attended this film screenings and actively participated in the interactions with the film maker.



## CONCLUSSION:-

'INSAF KI DAGAR PAR' was an effort of many organizations and individuals to highlight the issues of survivors of 2002 carnage and do not let the architects of this carnage to forget their evil acts under the brand of Development (for some at the cost of many). The various programs throughout 11 days reached to a larger section of the society and kept the issues of justice alive for the victims / survivors of 2002 carnage. The mask of 'Hindutva' was systematically replaced by the mask of 'Development' and thus the issues of the poor and marginalized in Gujarat due to unjust development were also highlighted during this event. The wide spread reach and impact of INSAF KI DAGAR PAR has posed a serious question / challenge for the passive state machineries which promotes 'Hindutva' below the surface by utilizing 'Development' as a tool and as an excuse. This event was thus in a way a ray of hope for the survivors of 2002 genocide and victims of other anti-people projects which provided them sense of support and solidarity of society and motivated them to continue their struggle for justice and peace.

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FOR 'INSAF KI DAGAR PAR'

1. Action Aid
2. Arzoo
3. Adivasi Mahasabha
4. Alliance For Peace
5. All India Secular Forum - AISF
6. Aman Samuday
7. Asha Deep
8. Behavioural Science Centre - BSC
9. Centre for Justice and Peace - CJP
10. Citizens Resource And Action Initiative - CRANTI

11. Darpana
12. Darshan
13. Drishti
14. Documentation and Study Centre For Action
15. Gujarat Sarvoday Mandal
16. Himmat
17. Indian American Muslim Council - IAMC
18. Indian Social Action Forum - INSAF
19. Institute for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions - IPSCR
20. Islamic Relief Committee - IRC
21. Janvikas
22. Jashwant Thaker Memorial Foundation
23. Jyoti Karmachari Mandal
24. Lok Kala Manch
25. Loknad
26. Movement For Secular Democracy - MSD
27. Navsarjan
28. Nyayagrah
29. Parwaz
30. Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti - PSS
31. Peoples' Union For Civil Liberties - PUCL
32. Prashant
33. Rajpipla Social Service Society - RSSS
34. Safar
35. Sahiyar (Stree Sangathan)
36. St. Xavier's Social Service Society - SXSSS
37. Utthan

#### **'INSAF KI DAGAR PAR' PROGRAM HOSTING COMMITTEE**

1. Shri Chunibhai Vaidya (Eminent Gandhian Leader)
2. Prof. Ghanshyam Shah (Sociologist)
3. Prof. Juzar Bandukwala (Human Rights Activist & President, PUCL- Gujarat)
4. Ms. Mallika Sarabhai (Artist - Activist)
5. Prof. Navdeep Mathur (Professor, IIM)
6. Mr. Prakah N Shah (Eminent Activist)
7. Dr. Sudarshan Iyenger (Kulapati, Gujarat Vidyapith)
8. Dr. Vidyut Joshi (Eminent Sociologist)

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