

Press Statement by Arya Samaj Leader and Chairperson of Bandhua
Mukti Morcha on Bajrang Dal - Swami Agnivesh

STOP THE MILITARISATION OF BAJRANG DAL AT ONCE

New Delhi - 29th May, 2018

Reports coming in that members of the Bajrang Dal, an RSS affiliate known for its aggressiveness, are being given training in the use of firearms and tactics of regular warfare are worrisome.

If Concerns about the overtly aggressive posturing of the Popular Front of India (PFI) are legitimate; the people of Kerala as well as the Central Government have expressed their concern in this regard, the present initiative of the Bagrang Dal is, if anything, more unlawful and objectionable. Yet, the government chooses to look the other way, for reasons that are altogether incomprehensible.

Bajrang Dal's alibi for this armed training is that it is needed to stop and eradicate love-jihad. If the state endorses this assumption even passively it admits itself to be incapable of managing the law and order situation in the country. This is a serious self-condemnation of the state. At a time when anxieties are mounting among minorities that, under Modi's watch, their liberty and security are being increasingly compromised, to allow outfits like the Bajrang Dal to undertake such posturing and hold out such provocations is utterly unacceptable. It deserves to be condemned by every Indian who believes in the values and guarantees of our Constitution.

I urge Prime Minister Modi to intervene at once and ensure such anarchic activities are stopped, no matter who is undertaking it and under what pretext. The fundamental issue here is not that Hindus are allowed to do what Muslims are not. It is that the stability and sanity of the country is being allowed to be endangered by non-state outfits. Only a failed state needs to outsource its responsibilities to extra-constitutional agencies like the Bajrang Dal.

I call upon all citizens, irrespective of their sub-national identities, to unite in condemning this dangerous trend on the part of the Bajran Dal and mount pressure on the Central Government to abide by its constitutional duties and obligations.