

## PRESS RELEASE

### **SURGICAL STRIKE NOW ON KERALITES BY SANGH PARIVAR**

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An unspeakable outrage has been perpetrated on the peace-loving, self-respecting people of Kerala, known for their exemplary record of communal harmony and social amity. Stung by the historic show of solidarity by the women of Kerala and their resolve to be treated no more as untouchables by agents of religious obscurantism, the RSS and the BJP in Kerala has gone berserk and mounted a surgical strike on the state.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January the people of Kerala found themselves besieged. Life was paralyzed. Streets convulsed with violence. The very face of Kerala was set on fire. Public assets burned. The media fraternity was singled out and assaulted for not toeing the Sangh line. Women were attacked, as a matter of priority. For an entire day the state stood stunned under malevolent terror.

This is not an isolated Kerala issue. What is nationally significant is that the mask has fallen from the Shah-Modi brand of politics. Its dance of fury has been showcased in Kerala. The essence of the Hindutva vision for India is now chillingly clear. 'Development' is its bait, but its agenda is brutal domination. It pretends to be open to all, but harbours a mindset of untouchability. There is no political party, in India or anywhere in the world, that exalts the untouchability of women to religious heights as the BJP does in Kerala. To add insult to injury, it deploys women at the forefront of defending this insult to women.

The Sangh has declared war not only on the civic life of Kerala but also on the will and democratic rights of its people. Amit Shah, in his last visit to Kerala, instigated his party ranks to 'pull down' the Kerala government. Since then the preparation for the present enacting of

manufactured anarchy has been underway. The intent is to provide an alibi for the Centre to intervene on the pretext that 'law and order has collapsed' in Kerala.

Keralites deserve to be congratulated for seeing through this political banditry. At the end of a whole day of mayhem, the BJP in the state stood completely isolated. Public resentment against its perversions could be felt everywhere. I urge all Indians to emulate the example of Kerala. If we want to live in peace, we have to reject agents of violence and oppression. If Hindus really care for their religion, they need to denounce the outrage of misusing and corrupting it for political gains. The country is in grave peril, if it is abandoned into the hands of such people.

Let us stand together in condemning this surgical strike on Kerala aimed at communally polarizing its people. Corrupting our sense of fellow humanity is too huge a price to pay for fulfilling somebody else's political ambition. Let us make sure that the pestilence of communal polarization is eradicated from our midst.