

LETTER TO CHIEF MINISTER MAHARASHTRA

26 July, 06

The bomb blasts on 11 Jul have yet again disclosed the collapse of the counter terrorism machinery of India. The terrorist operation bears a stamp of Al Qaeda. It is not known whether they have established terror cells in Mumbai. It is more probable that the terrorists were indoctrinated and trained by Al Qaeda operatives. To some extent it can be called an Al Qaeda operation.

Why Mumbai? Because:-

- Mumbai is the capital of Indian Organised Crime.
- Mumbai is the capital of Money laundering where criminal money is converted into white money.
- Mumbai is the capital of Drug trafficking in India.

Mumbai provides the organizational support to terrorists. Many white collared criminals who operate in the stock markets, banks, lawyers, film industry, real estate operators, hawala racketeers owe their existence to the mafia. Thus it provides the necessary support base and funds for the terrorists to operate with impunity. The police cannot touch these people.

Also, after 1993 bomb blasts, the terror organizations inducted many sleepers (people are trained and indoctrinated by terrorist organizations for future operations. They lead a normal life for many years till they are activated) in the city. These are carrying on their normal functions and are not related to anyone in the terrorist outfits. They will be activated suddenly from abroad to fulfill a mission after which they will be eliminated from the scene. Thus external intelligence forms the key to detect terrorist operations. Maharashtra or Mumbai police have no organizational structure to tackle foreign sources and powers. It is the job of the Central government.

It is thus felt that the central govt take on the full responsibility to tackle the menace of terrorism with the support of the state governments. Following aspects make the same indisputable:-

1. Terrorism has International dimension. Control of Terrorists causing the bomb blast is directly situated abroad. The news that two terrorist are arrested at Nepal with connection to 7/11 Mumbai blast is indicative of the international nature of the threat .
2. Terrorism is not a Law and Order problem It is a national security problem. The Prime Minister has pointed finger at Pakistan. Thus it is beyond the capability of a state government to tackle National Security issue.
3. Terrorism is possible due to active participation and support by organized crime networks. These networks are international in dimension and cannot be tackled without the support of Interpol. CBI is the sole agency authorized to deal with Interpol.

4. The Terrorist and organized crime networks are trained and equipped in foreign countries mainly; Afghanistan- Pakistan border, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. It is the National Intelligence agency's job to acquire Intelligence about these activities. It is beyond the purview of state government
5. Terrorism is possible due to the tremendous financial resources secured from collaboration between organized crime and drug trafficking networks. Criminal money is laundered into front companies globally. Currently this money is deployed in to Film Industry, Real estate companies , Air Lines and many other activities. Only central Economics Intelligence agency, RBI and Banks in India can tackle money laundering. This is critical to cut organized crime and terrorist from the money. This also beyond purview of State government.

After the 1993 blasts I had secured the signature of 120 MPs to demand a CBI investigation into the Mumbai blasts and also the setting up of the Vora Committee. The Vora committee had given all the recommendations which to date have not been implemented nor even considered. It is clear that there is lack of political will to take hard decisions to establish a nation wide counter Terrorist. Mechanism. The Mechanism itself requires an integrated approach of both central and state government.

The main dichotomy is that law and order is a state subject where the center cannot interfere without the request from the State govt. As brought out terrorism is a National Security problem for which the State is not equipped to deal with. India lacks an organization like the FBI in the US whose primary task is counter terrorism. Thus innocent lives continue to be lost and the Govts continue to follow uncharted routes.

Notwithstanding the above the govt should take action immediately to hand over the investigation of bomb blasts to the CBI which will be duly supported by the Mumbai Police. The State govt need not display false bravado and make prestige issue of the attacks. In 1993 the state govt had refused to hand over investigation to the CBI in which valuable time was lost. It was after our effort and the intervention of late Sh Shankarrao Chavan that the investigation was handed over to the CBI.

In addition a task force to be formed to protect Mumbai from any further attacks. The task force should be headed by an officer of Intelligence Bureau(IB). It should be composed with representatives from R & AW, CBI, DRI, Customs, Income Tax,

Mumbai Police, NCB, Defense Intelligence agencies and any other organization necessary.

No amount of money can make a Mumbai better place to live, if people are killed with regularity. Mumbai is most vulnerable as indicated by the Vora committee and the events that have followed. In the time that long term steps are taken Immediate action to hand over the investigation to the CBI and the formation of the task force is requested. This is for your kind action please.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sudhir', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Col Sudhir Sawant

Sh Vilasrao Deshmukh
Chief Minister
Gov. of Maharashtra

