

Terrorism and violence in India

The striking diversity of India, with a population of over one billion people, is manifest in its numerous languages, religions castes, cultures, etc. India has produced some of the richest persons in the world, while it has more than half of its over one billion people in poverty, and many millions among them in abject poverty. The history of India is littered with profound thinkers, sages and saints yet the country which has given the world the lofty ideology of Non-Violence, is entrenched in the worst form of religious intolerance and fundamentalism. Some political and religious groups are using religion and nationalism for political ends. These groups have formed fundamentalist organizations and propagated misguided ideology and spread the poison of hatred and intolerance among simple people who are indoctrinated in the name of nationalism. Quite a few sections of these organizations have

penetrated into the masses. The RSS, VHP, the *Bajrang Dal*, to mention a few, have created a sense of insecurity among people who do not accept their tenets and views. The enormous outburst of violence in the state of *Gujarat* and the recent mindless killing and destruction unleashed by these sections in the state of *Orissa* and also almost in all the states, except a few, have drawn the attention of the International community. In *Orissa* 300 villages destroyed, 4100 houses were burned, 50,000 people rendered homeless, 40 churches and 13 schools and colleges were destroyed. (The areas where we have our projects are not affected).



In the state of *Orissa*, a lot of killings and destructions happened because of the hindu's fundamentalism.



Mumbai (Bombay),
27th november 2008...

Besides these are the Muslim fundamentalists who kill innocent people in retaliation and achieving the religious ambition of annihilating non-Muslims, because they consider these non-believers. There were many terrorist attacks in many parts of the country, carried out by young jihadis. The simultaneous attacks in the center of *Mumbai (Bombay)* end of November filled the headlines of the newsletters worldwide.

One wonders if these dangerous situations will ever change. How the message of love, freedom, peace and respect for others and tolerance be ever restored among people in the country. Quite huge sections of the common masses are being carried away by the systematic propaganda of these organizations mentioned above. There is need to educate people with true human values. Perhaps it is in this perspective, schools, whose *raison d'être* is to develop good human being, should look

at itself. The present development here in India reiterates the purpose for which a school exists. Again it is a vindication that this objective of the schools is not seriously carried out.

Saint-Anthony School which is situated in the heart of Rural India and is in the midst of the

poor people though is not an exception to the common trend of the educational institutions, strives in its limited capacity to impart these

human values. It serves the people of the area without any distinction. The children who attend school here and the staff belong to all communities and castes and belong to all religious groups; Hindus, Muslims, Christians etc. Most of the students are from the economically poorer segment of the rural community. The people and the students here know that those who have provided this facility for education are Christians and these people have no financial ambitions. The very existence of the school in an area like this, at the cost of generous financial contribution, is a testimony of the love, concern, spirit of sharing. The school takes keen interest to create an atmosphere human values such as equality, service to people in need. The minimum charge of educational fees, free education for girls and for poorer sec-

We started the foundations for the new building of *Saint-Anthony School*.

tions, give the strong message of concern for people's needs.

We believe that this school both by its presence and the sincere efforts it makes to educate its scholars noble human values will help preparing a new generation and try in its limited capacity to create a society free of hatred and violence and the evil doctrine preached and spread by the trend of fundamentalism, resulting terrorism.

New School Building

The *Saint-Anthony School* building with 615 children has reached its maximum strength in 4 years and this situation compels us to take up the project for a new building. It will be bigger than the existing one and will be used for the secondary school, classes up to 12th (18 years old). As you see in the plan, there are two blocks and we plan to finish one block first and then to start the next block since this way we can reduce the expense on the construction. The new building is designed to accommodate 900 children, thus making the whole strength of the school 1500 !

CŒuvre des pains asbl, rue A. Delzenne 9, 7800 Ath.
 Site internet : <http://www.OeuvreDesPains.org>
 CCP 000-3000291-81 (Attestations fiscales, 30€ min.)

France : *CŒuvre des pains asbl*, c/o Adom sarl, 5 impasse de l'Ourcq, 78310 Maurepas. CCP Paris 25.984.20.A.

Editeur responsable : *Marc Valentin*, rue A. Delzenne 9, B-7800 Ath



Pose de la première pierre du nouveau bâtiment.