

Telegram: RAJASTHANI
JANMABHOCMI BOMBAY.

Telephone-22057-28023

All India States' People's Conference

(Central office : 139, Medows Street, Fort : Bombay.)

President

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya

General Secretaries

Balvantray Mehta

Jaynarayan Vyas

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VICTIMS OF SHIKAR - LUST

IN THE STATE OF CUTCH

THE sub-joined table gives a picture of the conditions prevailing in the mediæval State of Cutch in Western India. H. H. the MAHARAO is a leading spokesman of the Princes of India and holds a very high position in the chamber of Princes. He has been to many countries of Europe and Africa and has seen much of the World. In order to satisfy the lust of Shikar he has imported Cheetahs from Africa and let them loose in the jungles of Cutch from where they are used to make sallies and claim cattle as well as human beings as their victims. The People of Cutch are forbidden to attack these beasts and they have to suffer penalties if they dare to do any such thing even in self-defence. People are mauled and wounded and also killed by these beasts as evidenced by the facts enumerated in the accompanying table. People have asked and agitated against this grievous wrong, but to no purpose. In sheer desperation some of the workers are contemplating some active steps to end this unfortunate state of things. It is necessary that public bodies and People in public life should know things as they are. They must also know that the defenceless people of the State are deprived of all remedies as the state has the protection of the mighty British Government in all its doings and misdoings.

The inherent right of the People to rise in rebellion against misrule and oppression has been taken away by the British bayonet and the machine-gun. The anomaly of this situation has not yet dawned upon the British Administrators and public men, and the Princes and their myriads go on merrily oppressing their unfortunate subjects. I hope, the eloquent facts, as revealed by this note will open the eyes of persons responsible for the Administration of India and drastic steps to remedy the situation will be promptly taken with a view to ensure protection to the People of the State.

BALVANTRAY MEHTA,

General Secretary,

ALL INDIA STATES' PEOPLE'S
CONFERENCE.

MAHARAO OF CUTCH

PET HOBBY OF SHIKAR

PERSONS WOUNDED AND DEAD BY CHEETAHS AND HOGS

22 Persons Killed by Cheetahs 42 Persons Wounded by Cheetahs
 2 Persons Killed by Hogs 38 Persons Wounded by Cheetahs

TABLE SHOWING PARTICULARS REGARDING PERSONS INJURED OR DEAD AS A RESULT OF ASSAULTS FROM CHEETAHS LET LOOSE IN JUNGLES BY THE MAHARAO OF CUTCH IN ORDER TO SATISFY HIS PET HOBBY OF SHIKAR.

THOSE KILLED BY CHEETAHS

1	2.	3	4	5	6
No.	Name of the Victim.	Age.	Village.	Taluka.	Year.
1	Liladhar Shamji Soni.	26.	Sabhrai	Mandvi	1937.
2	Meru Gela Rabari	37.	"	"	1937.
REMARK: Wounded at nine in the morning in the Bazar and died in the Mandvi Hospital.					
3.	Pirana Sumar Koli	45.	Sujapur	Nakhatrana	1937.
4.	Sachu Abha Koli	22.	"	"	1937.
REMARK: His son who had already lost his mother having thus lost his father also is now an orphan at the mercy of his relatives.					
5.	Nodhanji Kundharji	45.	Guner	Lakhpai	1935.
6.	Devji Rajmalji	80.	"	"	1935.
7.	Fatu Janu Sota	50.	Zumara	"	1934.
8.	Aibh Phool Sota	30.	"	"	1936.
9.	Jumma Mussa Sora	20.	Virani	Nakhatrana	1937.
10.	Maluk Asha Jogi	30.	Virani	Nakhatrana	1937.
REMARK: Was a servant in the Shikar Party of the State. Got Rs..... (Twenty Kories) only in compensation.					
11.	Bhibhaji Akharaji	40	Jalodar	Nakhatrana	1936.
12.	Abdulla Sumar Pinjara	45	"	"	1936.
13.	Jat Woman (Name unknown)	Between Panel and Mad Rakhai 1935.			
REMARK: Had come to graze cattle.					
14.	Khima Harji Kanji	40.	Paneli	Nakhatrana	1934.
15.	Kumbhaji Patanji Jada	50.	Loria	Bhuj	1936.
16.	Jusab Khalakna Kheba	30.	Jadura	Bhuj	1936.
17.	Amu Datta Kheba	45.	"	"	1936.
REMARK: Servant of the Shikar Party. The wife of one gets some small allowance through influence.					
18.	unknown		Barachor	Abdaso	
19.	"		Asambia	Mandvi	
20.	"		Bandra	Bhuj	
21.	"		"	"	
22.	"		"	"	

THOSE INJURED BY CHEETAHS.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Jat woman, name unknown		Paneli	Madi	1935.
REMARK: Had come to graze cattle.					
2.	Vasta Lalji Kanbi	20.	Todlo		1936
3.	Kheta Arjan Kanbi	30.	"		"
4.	Rambai wife of Shivdas Naraindas	35.	"	"	"
5.	Teja Hira Kanbi	50.	Kotdo	Mandvi	1934
6.	Isu Ladha Mungal	40.	Ašambio	Abdaso	"
7.	Gorbai Dosal Charan	42.	Karodio	Bhuj	30-3-1937
8.	Rama Dhana Ayar	40.	Varli	"	"
9.	Ruda Sava Ayar	50.	"	"	"
10.	Kasha Vira	30.	"	"	"
11.	Mema Vala	22.	"	"	"
12.	Vala Devananc'	28.	"	"	"
13.	Raja Rata	28.	"	"	"
14.	Dhana Kheta	10	"	"	"
15.	Bijal Ruda Ayar	50	"	"	"
REMARK: Had the body of an athlete. Having been severely wounded is now living in a semi-conscious condition.					
16.	Vanvir Hadu Rabari	35.	Varli	Bhuj	1937.
17.	Sonabal Koli	37.	"	"	1937.
18.	Amu Suleman Manjodi	35.	Gangaon	Nakhatrana	1937.
REMARK: Killed the Cheetah while it attacked a cow by blow of Lathi and wounded severely was in bed for two months owing to a deep wound on the neck.					
19.	Vishram Rambharthi	18.	Bibar	Nakhatrana	1937.
20.	Mamad Mode		Zureo	Bhuj	1936.
REMARK: Was treated in the Bhuj Hospital for three months.					
21.	Mariabai Khamisha	12.	Zureo	Bhuj	1935.
22.	Kumbhaji Hamirji	40.	Kharadia	Nakhatrana	1934
REMARK: Killed the Cheetah by a blow of Lathi. Got wounded severely himself. He was found innocent after one year and a half in Bitah Court.					
23.	Viram Devkaran Ayar		Veg	Nakhatrana	1937.
24.	Jetha Kachra	20.	Nokhan	Bhuj	1935.
25.	Karshan Dosani	18.	Voria	Bhuj	1934
REMARK: Wounded by a wild animal named Vaju.					
26.	Bachu Mistri	40.	Bhuj		1936.
27.	Rabari Jakhu Vanaka	20.	Makhana	Bhuj	1934.
28.	Rabari Bhoja Vira	22.	"	"	1934
REMARK: Servant of the Shikar Party, lost his hand and gets some allowance.					
29.	Kasa Fakir Samaji	25.	Jadura	Anjar	1934.
30.	Umar Ladak	30.	Heldi	"	"
31.	Kevad Juma		Sinogra	"	"
32.	Jusa Vala Agarla	40.	Loaria	"	"
33.	Hira Mathak Ayar	35.	"	"	"
34.	Arjan Panchan	40.	Kredoi	"	"

THOSE KILLED BY HOGS

1.	Bachau Adat Kumbhar	10.	Zarparo	Mundra	1931
2.	Sadat Daria Jat	35.	Balandra	Lakhpat	1937.

REMARK: When he led the animals to water-tank he was killed by a hog.

THOSE INJURED BY HOGS

1.	Sakhara Visla Charan	35.	Zarpara	Mundra	1936.
2.	Pahabai Isak Chaki		"	"	
3.	Uka Ram Charan	40.	"	"	
4.	Vela Soju Shah	40.	Bhujpar	Mundra	1934.
5.	Dhana Gopal Megwal	30.	Gundiali	Mandvi	1937.
REMARK: Wounded severely. In Mandvi Hospital.					
6.	Mala Deva Megwal	70.	Gundiali	Mandvi	1934.
REMARK: After 14 attacks he was taken to Mandvi Hospital.					
7.	Ranaji Jesangji Hala	45.	Gundiali	Mandvi	1936.
8.	Deva Dasar Matang	40.	"	"	
9.	Jivram Hansraj Rajgor	35.	"	"	1934
REMARK: After being injured by the Hog, he killed the Hog by his stick and he was arrested by police and was charged of hunting. He was harassed for two years and released after he was innocent.					
10.	Pragji Meghji Rajgor	36.	Gundiali Baugh	Mandvi	1937.
11.	Sundarji Khimji Rajgot	40.	"	"	
12.	Sumara Malabai	36.	Bidada Gundiali	Mandvi	1931.
13.	Premji Mavji Rajgor	28.	Gundiali Baugh	"	1935.
14.	Kanbi Vasta Parvat		"	"	1937.
15.	Kanbi Ramji Natha	40.	Mundra		1935.
REMARK: He was being charged of hunting in 1937 and arrested and beaten severely; also his wife and son were arrested. He was asked to give 260 Kories and afterwards he appealed to Police Commissioner.					
16.	Son of Ramji Natha		Mandvi	"	1935.
17.	"		"	"	"
18.	Shangar Kara	30.	Mandvi	"	1937.
REMARK: After he was threatened by Mandvi Fojdar, he refused to be arrests but gave the evidence of his injuries to the people surrounding him.					
19.	Memon Budha Tarmohmed	40.	Mandvi		1934.
20.	Memon Budha	10.	Mandvi		
21.	Memon Bai Rahima	9.	Mandvi		1933.
22.	Sumara Tamachi	38.	Mandvi		1925.
23.	Kanbi Valji Punja	42.	Mandvi		1934.
24.	Rajgor Ratibai Khimji		Gundiali	Mandvi	1934.
25.	Rajgor Umarbai Narsi	25	"	Mandvi	1937.
REMARK: Severely injured. Was lying in Mandvi Hospital.					
26.	Pragji Sundarji	35.	Maska	Mandvi	1937.
27.	Kanbi Devraj Ramji	30.	Mandvi	"	1937.
28.	Sati Sidik Mamad	24.	"	"	1931.
29.	Abha Lana Sau,		Sabhrai	"	
30.	Haja Bava	40.	Kali-Taravdi	Bhuj	1931.
31.	Oshwal Thavar,	40.	Samkhiari	Vagad	1931.
32.	Oshwal Soni Hadha	24.	"	"	"
33.	Shangar Budha Natha	18.	Bambdal	Mandvi	1937.
34.	Megwal Karman Mega	60.	"	"	1937.
35.	Kumbhar Virji Bhoja	45.	"	"	"
36.	Ayar Lakha Dana	30.	"	"	"

The following statement is issued by the Limbdi Praja Mandal:-

The Limbdi Diwan has stated that exaggerated reports about dacoities in Limbdi have appeared in the Press. He dare not give correct facts under the excuse that the matter is sub-judice. There is nothing sub-judice. Here are a few facts about the dacoity at Pansina which the Diwan may challenge, if he dare to.

February 5th was celebrated as a Rajkot Day at Pansina and there was a meeting which dispersed at about 10 P. M. About 11 P. M. people heard firing all round in the village and outside. Then one by one houses of Praja Mandal workers or sympathisers were raided.

About 80 persons appear to have come. They divided themselves into two batches of about 20 persons each, the rest remaining outside the village surrounding it.

They had come armed with all kinds of weapons such as guns, swords, knives, iron rods, green bamboo sticks, etc. and had brought motors.

They were dressed to disguise and carried torches and lanterns.

The dacoits first locked the Praja Mandal Office from outside to prevent the volunteers from coming out and then proceeded.

One party attacked Chunilal Dharsey. The man is insane since 5 or 6 years and is very poor. His mud house is fallen. He and his wife live in the verandah. His crime was that his son Bhuralal was a Praja Mandal volunteer. The dacoits broke open the outer door and about 20 persons entered. They first asked for Bhuralal. He was sleeping at the Praja Mandal Office. They then belaboured Chunilal and his wife. The mad man shrieked and prayed for mercy. His wife's ear-rings were removed. Everything in their house was broken and destroyed. Chunilal and his wife have left Pansina.

Next came the turn of Nathalal Purshottam, another Praja Mandal worker. His aged parents were sleeping in the outer verandah with his daughter aged 14. His wife was sleeping in the room, having delivered about 20 days ago. He was sleeping in the outer verandah. The iron railings of this verandah were broken. Nathalal attempted to fly by the outer door. He met four or five persons facing him with guns. He came back. He was soundly belaboured with sticks and kicks. With great difficulty he carried his wife to a neighbour. His father age 64 and ill was assaulted and seriously injured. He was wounded on the head and bled. Nathalal's daughter aged 14 was attacked and all ornaments on her person removed. She has been so terribly frightened that she is weeping all the while. His two houses were broken open. All boxes, large and small were broken and the dacoits carried away ornaments and cash worth about 8 to 10 thousand. Nathalal and his family have left Pansina.

Then came the turn of Sukhlal Jasraj. His son Kantilal was also a Praja Mandal volunteer. The outer door was first broken and about 15 persons entered. They first asked for Kantilal. He was sleeping at the Praja Mandal Office. Then Sukhlal, his wife and his daughter were attacked and injured. His houses were broken open and many things destroyed. The dacoits carried away booty worth about Rs. 3,000/-.

Another party appears to have gone the other way. They first went to Nagardas Chhaganlal. His outer door was broken open. He and his wife closed the doors of the house. The dacoits began to break the doors with axes and iron rods. Some time thereafter Nagardas himself opened the house. He was attacked and seriously injured. He was robbed. Many things were broken. The dacoits then again attacked Nagardas to show this valuables. They threatened to kill his children sleeping in the house. They threatened to attack his wife.

Then came the turn of Kalidas Dhanji, President of the Praja Mandal who lives next to Nagardas. There is a wall in between them. The dacoits went over the wall. Kalidas lives alone. He attempted to fly by

the outer door. He opened it and was immediately attacked and severely belaboured by 4 or 5 persons standing outside. He became unconscious. He was thrown in a cot and his house was broken open. Everything in it was destroyed and valuables carried away. Then he was attacked to show more. Three or four persons sat upon his chest and attacked him with knives and swords. He received serious injuries. He had a sword-thrust at the back about 3-4 inches deep and was in a pool of blood. He has been removed to the Hospital and has been operated. Kalidas is aged about 55.

Then came the turn of Chhotalal Punjabhai, another prominent Praja Mandal worker. His outer door was broken open. One servant in the gangway was beaten. The iron railings of the verandah were then broken. Chhotalal and his wife were in one of the rooms. The dacoits began breaking it with axes & iron rods. Some time thereafter Chhotalal himself opened the room. He and his wife were dragged out and severely beaten with green bamboo sticks and kicks. The dacoits then broke open boxes large and small in the house and carried the valuables. They then again attacked Chhotalal to show more. A lantern was thrown on his head. There was serious injury. He was wounded on the hand. A stick was thrust in his back part. The clock then struck 12-30. The clock was immediately broken. His wife was then attacked and the ornaments on her person removed. She had silver-ware on her feet which could not be removed. They attempted to cut her feet but then abandoned. They then broke another room and destroyed a great deal. Then they wanted to go upstairs. The stair-case door was locked. It was fired upon and then broken. Three more rooms were broken open upstairs and valuables carried away and many other things destroyed. Chhotalal's wife is in bed and removed to Ahmedabad.

The dacoits also have broken open five shops one of them being a small shop of Bhuralal son of Chunilal.

They appear to have left at about 1-30 A. M. All this while there was continuous firing in the air all round.

Every one who has been attacked, injured and robbed is either a worker or a member of the Praja Mandal. The dacoits met several other persons. They were asked to go away. There were three marriage parties in the village that night. They were not even approached.

There is a police party kept at Pansina and there are a number of village watchmen. Not one of them came out.

No State servant went to make any inquiries even in the morning. News was received in Limbdi at about 9 A. M. next day and immediately doctors were sent and Kalidas who was in a precarious condition was removed to Limbdi and other injured were attended to. About 30 workers of the Praja Mandal from Limbdi went immediately and brought to Limbdi all those who desired to come away.

Darbar Gopaldas came to Pansina on the 7th February. He interviewed each one of those who was attacked and wounded and visited each place. He saw the destruction. At several places, the bamboo sticks, pick-axes and iron rods were left by the dacoits. They have been brought to Limbdi.

The State is now said to be investigating. We do not want to comment at this stage on the methods of so-called investigation.

Similar is the tale in other villages. Another village Ralol four miles away from Pansina was looted the same night and only Praja Mandal workers were attacked, injured and robbed.

Criminal intimidation and threats of personal injury and assassination are held out to all persons who work for, or are members or sympathisers of the Praja Mandal. There are dacoities and thefts galore in the villages. Hundreds have fled and are flyings. There is absolutely no safety of person or property.

The States' People Press, Fort, Bombay.

The following Statement is issued by the Limbdi Praja Mandal:

"The dispatch from the special correspondent of the *Times of India* published in its issue of 7th February demands a reply. It is obviously intended to cover the sins of Limbdi. It is amazing for its *Suggestio Falsi and Supprecto Veri*.

In November, December, last prominent citizens of Limbdi met Yuvraj in Bombay and expressed their desire to educate the people to take part in Government. The Yuvraj assured the leaders that not only he welcomed such movement but that he would render all assistance and give his car to the workers to go to the villages. Praja Mandal was thereafter founded in Bombay and Ahmedabad. During Christmas the leaders went to Limbdi to establish Praja-Mandal at Limbdi. At the invitation of Yuvraj the leaders saw him. There was a complete change of front on his part. He had devised a scheme to divide the city and villages and to divide people by communities. He insisted that the Praja-Mandal should under no circumstances go to the villages. He professed concern for the villages, but wanted dictatorial powers to work his so-called scheme. The Yuvraj is a political theorist and believes in autocracy which he calls benevolent. He hates democracy. He dreaded nothing more than Praja-Mandal workers going to the villages. He stated that he was willing to grant certain reforms such as popular Municipality and control over hospital and education in the city on the condition that the Praja-Mandal agreed to leave the villages completely to him. The Praja-Mandal workers naturally would not agree to such a condition. The Limbdi state like the rest of India lives in its villages. Out of an income of about eight lacs Limbdi city yields only about rupees fifty thousands. There was no use for a Praja-Mandal which could not reach the villages. The Yuvraj then started that he was willing to make a declaration on Rajkot lines and invited a draft. A draft was submitted to him. He gave counter-drafts or formulas. The formulas were as vague as possibly there could be. There was no assurance that any constitution drafted by a committee would be given effect to. The essence however of all these drafts was to divide the city and the villages and one community from another. That was his idea of divising a constitution suited to natural genius of the people. A condition was that until the committee he intended to set up completed its investigation and submitted its report, there should be no political activity of any kind in the villages. His idea was clearly to gain time and let the enthusiasm subside and die out.

All further discussion was therefore useless.

The Praja-Mandal was then established and its workers went to the villages to educate the people. It was repeatedly declared by Praja Mandal its object was to work by peaceful and legitimate methods and its immediate objective was to establish contact with the people and to educate them. It intended no fight. Even this much was more than the state could bear. The state however had not the courage to give a straight fight. It has resorted to organise *goondaism* to repress the movement and terrorise the people. It has collected all the *goondas* in the state and invited well-known dacoities from adjoining territories to terrorise the people. The state servants openly assist these *goondas*. The

Praja-Mandal workers and its sympathisers are attacked and assaulted. The people are being forced to sign loyalty pledges. There are now dacoities and thefts galore in villages where the Praja-Mandal workers and sympathisers are assaulted and seriously injured with deadly weapons and looted. There has remained no safety of person and property.

It is malicious lie to say that the situation has crystallised into a dispute between the money lending classes and not the agriculturist and the state. The Praja-Mandal is prepared to prove its representative character by a free referendum. The leaders of the movements are each one of them leading and respectable citizens of Limbdi, each of them owning properties in the state worth thousands. They have everything to lose and nothing to gain by the movement. The peasants are solidly with the Praja-Mandal. One has only got to witness the meetings and processions of the Praja-Mandal to see the support of the masses.

The state has started a counter organisation called Sanatan Mandal. Almost all the office bearers of this Mandal are state servants or dependents. These officers try to spread false rumours against the Praja-Mandal in the name of religion. The peasants and the people however know the true situation very well.

The Praja-Mandal is having its first session on the 19th February. The state has started terrible repression and let loose forces of anarchy to suppress the movement. The people are determined to carry on the struggle."

The States' People Press, Fort, Bombay.