



MALIGNING THE WORLD HINDU CONGRESS 2018

A brief analysis of the players behind the campaign

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Introduction

The World Hindu Congress (WHC) is being held in Chicago, USA from September 7-9 to commemorate 125 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago Address at the Parliament of World's Religions on September 11, 1893. More than 2000 delegates of large and small Hindu organizations, temples and institutions will gather for three days of networking, inspiring one another, and addressing common challenges that affect 1.1 billion Hindus around the globe. The mega conference will feature over 200 renowned Hindu and non-Hindu personalities, leaders and speakers from various walks of life, including the Dalai Lama, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Swami Paramatmananda, Swami Swaroopananda, Satguru Dalip Singh, Dr. Pranav Pandya, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy, Chandrika Tandon, Swati Dandekar, Gov. of Bali I Made Mangku Pastika, Dr. SP Kothari, Bollywood Star Anupam Kher, renowned Bollywood Directors Vivek Agnihotri and Madhur Bhandarkar, Zee TV Founder Subhash Chandra, Dr. Mohandas Pai, author Amish Tripathi and numerous others. This is one of the most important gathering of Hindus from around the world and an opportunity for American Hindus to understand the challenges facing Hindu world at large.

Yet, in August 2018, a group called Coalition for the Defense of the Constitution and Democracy (CDCD) launched a vicious attack on the WHC, accusing it of promoting hatred and terrorism against minorities in India. The coalition also falsely claims that "many of the attendees of the WHC are elected officials from the BJP [emphasis added] that either directly engage in hate speech or have silently endorsed hate speech..."¹ In addition, The CDCD will be hosting a press release and panel discussion on Thursday, September 6th at the New York University to portray the WHC and various Hindu organizations as promoters of fascism and Islamophobia. Speakers at the event include Shaik Ubaid, Biju Mathew, and Raja Harish Swamy, among others.

A closer look at the background of CDCD and its constituents reveals that the coalition is another form of an anti-India and anti-Hindu nexus of Radical Indian Leftists, Islamists and separatists that has been attacking the Indian American and American Hindu organizations for over twenty years. Members of the CDCD are also founding members and leaders of the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG), which lobbied and deceived the US Government into denying Mr. Modi a visa in 2005. Similarly, many of them are also the founders and leaders of the Forum of Inquilabi Leftists (FOIL), a Radical leftist group whose members are associated with and endorse various communist parties and terror groups within India, and exhibit chronic hatred towards Hindus. In addition, CAG, FOIL and other groups within such coalitions have been deceiving the regulators, media and the general public by exaggerating their numbers and blatantly lying about the number of organizations in such coalitions, the statistics around violence in India as well as around the perception of Hinduism and Hindus. To add further, these groups often hide their close alliance with and support for violent Islamic and communist terror groups and support Kashmiri and Tamil separatism. Some of their members have been arrested or investigated by US and Indian authorities for their involvement in or support for terrorism and separatism. Another coalition group member exhibits blatant hatred towards Mahatma Gandhi and calls him a warmonger, sexual molester and racist.

Such groups then morph into various coalitions to suit their agendas. In 2002 and 2003, they created the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) to portray the 2002 Godhra Riots as genocide on Muslims and minorities and the most violent incident in the history of India. In 2014, several members of the CDCD came together under the Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA) to protest the visit of Indian Prime

¹ <http://www.minoritiesofindia.org/coalition-calls-tulsi-gabbard-reject-association-hate-groups/>.

Minister Narendra Modi and accused the Indian Diaspora of endorsing “toxic Hindutva nationalism.” In 2017 and 2018, they created South Asian Histories For All coalition to fight against Hindu parents seeking for a fair portrayal of Hinduism vis-à-vis other major world religions. And, presently, they are operating under the CDCD.

The members of the CDCD include the Alliance for South Asians Taking Action (ASATA), Indian American Muslim Council, Sadhana: A Coalition of Progressive Hindus, Ambedkar King Study Circle, Chicago Desi Youth Rising, Organization for Minorities of India and others. A brief analysis of each of these groups and their views follows.

Organization for Minorities in India (OFMI)

OFMI was the organization that launched one of the first attacks on the WHC and called for Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard to dissociate herself from the WHC. OFMI conveniently ignores the fact that Congresswoman had stepped down as WHC Chairwoman many months before the August 2018 attack by CDCD and OFMI for reasons unrelated to those that OFMI and CDCD obsess over.

OFMI's agenda is directly aligned with many of the coalition members and others who continue to portray India and Hindus as savages, warmongers and oppressors of minorities. Its members and leaders hold severe contempt against Hindus and the Indian State. Interestingly, OFMI holds severe hatred against



Mahatma Gandhi. On October 2016, Bhajan Singh, the Founding Director of OFMI declared at a protest that “Gandhi is a...warmonger, a racist, a sex-offender...he is rejected by India’s majority of the population.”² Similarly, the protest compared Mahatma Gandhi’s statue to statues of Confederate Leaders who endorsed white supremacy or racial segregation. During the OFMI event, South Asian Affairs analyst Peter Friedrich echoed OFMI’s sentiments when he concluded: “They told you about Gandhi’s racism, his support of the caste system, and his incestuous sexual abuse of his grandnieces.”³ Bhajan Singh is also the Founding Director of Sikh Information

Center⁴, an organization that supports Sikh Separatism and labels the 1984 riots as “state-sponsored genocide in India...”⁵

Another section of OFMI’s website vociferously accuses Mahatma Gandhi of sexually abusing his nieces.⁶ Yet another article blasts Mahatma Gandhi as a warmonger and Nazi supporter.⁷

² <http://www.minoritiesofindia.org/racist-davis-gandhi-stature-compared-confederate-statues/>.

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/minoritiesofindia/posts/sic-director-bhajan-singh-bhinder-us-congress-must-pass-hr-417-to-censure-modide/598193700217073/>.

⁵ <http://www.sikhinformationcentre.org/about-american-sikhs/>.

⁶ <http://www.minoritiesofindia.org/gandhis-sexual-abuse-of-grandnieces/>.

⁷ <http://www.minoritiesofindia.org/gandhis-wars-becoming-a-nobel-peace-prize-reject/>.

Alliance for South Asians Taking Action (ASATA)

ASATA is a San Francisco based group that works on various radical leftist issues among young South Asians while hiding its links to the radical leftist network. A deeper analysis proves that the group is nothing but an extension of the Forum of Inqualabi Leftists (FOIL). The Projects section on its website lists something called “Bay Area Solidarity Summer (BASS).”⁸ On surface, such initiatives appear rather innocuous for South Asian teens. But, the “Learn More” link directs you to BASS’ website (<http://www.solidaritysummer.org/>). Under “Why was BASS formed?” the About/FAQ section clearly states the following:

We were inspired by the mentors that helped us grow as organizers. BASS builds on the tradition of progressive South Asian American summer camps, including Youth Solidarity Summer (New York), RadDesi Summer (Austin, Texas), and Organizing Youth (SF Bay Area). We're part of a larger movement, including our friends at East Coast Solidarity Summer, Chicago Desi Youth Rising, Los Angeles Summer Solidarity Institute, and South Asian Youth in Houston Unite [emphasis added].⁹

All of the above legacy groups are children of FOIL that are either defunct or barely active. In essence, the activists that run ASATA and BASS have undergone training via radical leftist programs in New York, San Francisco and other places. These activists have now formed ASATA to extend FOIL’s radical leftist thought leadership to a new generation of South Asian youth. Such activism subscribes to inaccurate and pejorative notions such as Hinduism = caste = racism, and propagates the theme that all horrors of South Asia are caused by “Hindu savages” in India while conveniently ignoring violence and terrorism in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Anirvan Chatterjee, one of the founding members of ASATA, has been a veteran member of FOIL and Friends of South Asia (FOSA). Another key ASATA activist is Anu Mandavalli, who has led various campaigns for FOSA.¹⁰ FOSA has promoted events with heavy Kashmiri separatist flavor and featured speakers such as Angana Chatterji (another FOIL veteran) and Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai. In 2011, Fai was arrested by the FBI on charges of being a Pakistani ISI agent and for funneling millions of dollars through his Kashmiri American Council to promote Kashmiri separatism.¹¹ FOSA and Chatterjee have been heavily involved in fighting against California Hindu parents who have been demanding a fair portrayal of Hinduism vis-à-vis other major religions in 6th Grade California textbooks.

Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR)

CDYR is one of the youth initiatives of FOIL, as illustrated in the section earlier, where the “FAQ” section of ASATA showed how the group developed from legacy FOIL youth initiatives such as Youth Solidarity Summer, Organizing Youth, DC Desi Summer, Chicago Desi Youth Rising, etc.

⁸ <http://www.asata.org/projects>.

⁹ <http://www.solidaritysummer.org/faq.html>.

¹⁰ <http://www.solidaritysummer.org/who-is-bass.html>.

¹¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/fai-pleads-guilty-to-conspiring-with-pakistani-spy-agency-to-lobby-for-kashmir/2011/12/07/gIQAXJAidO_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ba556f5e8366.

Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC)

IAMC, formerly known as Indian Muslim Council (IMC-USA), is a founding member of the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG). CAG has repeatedly attacked Hindu groups and organizations since 2002. IAMC was set up in the aftermath of the 2002 Gujarat riots and considers itself the “largest advocacy organization of Indian Muslims in the United States.” Since its founding, one of its primary missions has been to lynch Mr. Narendra Modi for his supposed role in the Gujarat riots and to ensure that the so-called “human rights violations” against Muslims in Gujarat are highlighted at an international level.

IAMC fights for the interests and concerns of Indian Muslims in the US and in India. While it stands for “pluralism, tolerance, and respect for human rights” and to “provide increasing inter-faith and inter-community understanding in the United States, with particular focus on the Indian Diaspora,” its activities aim at routinely demonizing India and Hindus by showing both as oppressors of Muslims, Christians and Dalits. Further, under the veil of inter-faith and inter-community discourse, IAMC mostly invites individuals known for their biased views on India and Hinduism. India and Hindus are automatically rendered guilty of crimes against Muslims, Christians and Dalits, while any terrorist attack in India needs to be “carefully analyzed” before they are blamed on Islamic terrorists.

In 2003, IAMC organized its first ever convention in Washington, D.C. While it boasted an impressive array of speakers, the list included mostly those with a history of portraying India as a savage and violent place. For example, according to the convention announcement, the prominent speakers included, among others, Fr. Cedric Prakash, Praful Bidwai, Dr. Lise McKean, Dr. K.P. Singh, Dr. Angana Chatterji, Smita Narula, P. D. John, Dr. Hari Sharma, and Raju Rajagopal. Many of these individuals are also part of the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG).¹²

IAMC’s 2005 Convention followed the same pattern, and included CAG and FOIL members such as Biju Mathew, Shrikumar Poddar, Omar Khalidi, Raju Rajagopal, as well as other speakers such as Dr. Lise McKean and Fr. Cedric Prakash.¹³ This theme was again repeated in the 2008 IAMC Convention.¹⁴

It is even more disturbing that IAMC puts on a facade about Indian patriotism while its founders are known to support Pakistani extremists and glorify Jihadi terrorists that fight India in Kashmir.

For example, Shaik Ubaid, a key founding member of CDCD and the speaker at the upcoming NYU event, is also a key founding member and one of the main coordinators of CAG. Ubaid is also the founding President of IAMC¹⁵ and has served as President of IAMC in its initial years.¹⁶ Ubaid continues to be a prominent figure in IAMC as well as coalitions such as CDCD and the CAG. Ubaid demonstrates visceral hatred for various Hindu groups that he labels as “Hindu extremists/fascists” and does not miss a chance to link them to any hate mongering attacks in the world. On August 5, 2012, Ubaid condemned the racist attack on the Milwaukee Sikh Gurudwara in a press release. In this release, Ubaid desperately attempts to link “Hindu extremists” to this attack and implies that Hindus had something to do with it. He states: “Some Hindu extremist groups in the US have joined hands with other Islamophobic hate-peddlers [emphasis added]. They should now realize that the hate that they are spreading endangers all South Asians

¹² For more details about the convention and speakers, please visit <http://www.ahouseofcards.net/groups/iamc/>.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ The “Confirmed Speakers” list in the following brochure of IAMC’s first convention lists Ubaid as the “Founding President of IAMC and IMANNET: http://iamc.com/files/2003convention_flier.pdf.

¹⁶ For example, the January 15, 2003 IAMC Press release mentions Ubaid as the president of IMC-USA and the main contact person. http://iamc.com/press-release/indian_muslim_council_condemns_attack_on_us_missionary/.

irrespective of their religious backgrounds and will not be limited to hatred against Muslims.”¹⁷ The statement essentially implies that such an attack was fanned by an apparent partnership between white supremacists and “Hindu extremists.”

In addition, Ubaid notoriously exaggerates the death toll of Muslims in the Gujarat riots in order to raise funds and gain further sympathy from the wider Muslim world. For example, in 2002, IMAN-Net (Indian Muslims Alert Network - a group founded by Ubaid which later became Indian Muslims Advocacy Network) published a brochure titled *Unite to Fight Hindu Fascists*, containing highly explosive information to incite anger and hatred in a wider audience in mosques and other public spaces. Among other things, the brochure exclaims: “It is estimated that more than 5,000 Muslims [emphasis added] were hacked to death, burnt alive or shot by police in the Gujarat ethnic cleansing and 2,000 women and little girls [emphasis added] were raped.”¹⁸ Ubaid sent a personal appeal to Muslim media outlets around the world, urging financial help as well as volunteers to distribute the above brochure in their area masjids (mosques), Madrasas (Islamic religious schools) and stores.¹⁹

In this appeal, Ubaid exaggerates the situation yet again by stating:

The fascist forces have plans to ethnically cleanse India of Muslims, Christians and other minorities. In Gujarat they demonstrated the depth of their evil when they massacred 5,000 people, gang-raped and burnt alive little girls. Even unborn babies were not spared.²⁰

Such exaggerated and misleading numbers create instant hatred among various communities and portray Hindus as marauders. While the Gujarat riots were unfortunate, the death toll was far below what Ubaid and IAMC want readers to believe; not to mention, many rioting Hindus were shot dead by the police.

¹⁷ “MUSLIM and IMMIGRANT ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS CONDEMN MILWAUKEE SIKH TEMPLE MASSACRE”, August 5, 2012, <http://epfnational.org/uncategorized/muslim-and-immigrant-advocacy-organizations-condemn-milwaukee-sikh-temple-massacre/>.

¹⁸ See copy of the information booklet at <https://web.archive.org/web/20040626135029/http://imannet.com/action/iman0602.pdf>.

¹⁹ Shaik Ubaid, “Rescuing Indian Muslims”, July 2002, *PakistanLink*, archived at <https://web.archive.org/web/20080929193818/http://www.pakistanlink.com/Opinion/2002/July/12/07.html>.

²⁰ Ubaid, *ibid*.

IMAN-Net – Example of deceptive tactics practiced by Ubaid and IAMC

Ubaid's and IAMC's politics of deception and dubious activism is all too obvious when one does a deeper investigation of organizations like IMAN-Net. In the CDCD press release for the NYU event, Ubaid is introduced as a representative of IMAN-Net – Indian Minorities Advocacy Network.²¹ Initially, IMAN-Net was called Indian Muslim Alert Network.²² On its Facebook Page, the organization calls itself Indian Minorities Advocacy Network²³ while on its website (still under construction) the organization calls itself Indian Muslim Advocacy Network.²⁴ Ubaid declares himself as the president of IMAN-Net in several Press releases,²⁵ some issued alongside IAMC²⁶ and other members of the CAG.²⁷ However, IMAN-Net is actually a division of IAMC, per the May 24, 2004 snapshot of www.IMAN-Net.com by the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.²⁸ The website's header and the "About Us" section clearly declare that IMAN-Net is a division of Indian Muslim Council (IMC-USA). The screenshot below reproduces the website.



Similarly, a Wayback Machine capture of www.IMAN-Net.com on August 2, 2011 shows that its site actually redirects to IAMC's old website (www.imc-usa.org).²⁹ Therefore, it is clear that Ubaid and IAMC are deceiving the general public by declaring IMAN-Net a separate organization.

This strategy is routinely practiced by members of such coalitions for many years.

²¹ <http://www.indialife.us/article.php?id=104001>.

²² See the following archived link in the Wayback Machine Internet Archive at <https://web.archive.org/web/20030815095159/http://imannet.com/about/>.

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Imannet/500171056704310>.

²⁴ <https://web.archive.org/web/20130310120509/http://www.imannet.com/>.

²⁵ See the following May 22, 2013 news article where Ubaid is mentioned as president of IMAN-Net. <http://muslimmirror.com/eng/indian-american-rights-group-condemns-attack-on-khalid-mujahids-lawyer/>.

²⁶ See the following February 22, 2013 news article where Ubaid comments on behalf of IMAN-Net while Ahsan Khan comments on behalf of IAMC.

http://twocircles.net/2013feb22/hyderabad_blasts_indian_muslims_concerned_about_witchhunt.html.

²⁷ See the following 2008 letter sent by members of CAG to President Obama protesting Sonal Shah's appointment to the President's Transition Team. IMAN-Net signs its name right above IMC-USA.

http://www.sacw.net/index.php?page=imprimir_articulo&id_article=393.

²⁸ <https://web.archive.org/web/20040524195133/http://imannet.com/>.

²⁹ <https://web.archive.org/web/20110802124232/http://www.imannet.com/>.

IMAN-Net, IAMC and the SIMI Connection

IAMC and IMAN-Net's Islamist/terrorist connections come to light through the likes of Ubaid and Syed Azmatullah Quadri. In 2008, the Coalition Against Genocide wrote³⁰ to President Obama expressing concerns over the selection of Sonal Shah to the President's Transition Board, blaming Ms. Shah for maintaining links to "Hindu extremists." In the letter, Syed Azmatullah Quadri signs as the Founding Chairman of IMAN-Net, while Ubaid signs as the Founding President of IMAN-Net. According to Illinois State Records, Quadri was the Registered Agent of IMC-USA,³¹ the former name of IAMC. And, it was shown earlier that IMAN-Net is a division of IAMC. But, Quadri was also one of the founders of Consultative Committee on Indian Muslims (CCIM).³² In 2008, *The Times of India* carried an article stating that the CCIM and the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) provided significant financial support to the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).³³ IAMC and CCIM have worked very closely together for many years and have issued joint statements and documents.³⁴

SIMI is a banned terrorist/jihadist organization in India that has been active since 2001 with links to Jamaat-e-Islam (JeI), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). SIMI leaders and members have been arrested in India in connections with multiple terrorist attacks and plots. SIMI has "...declared Jihad against India, the aim of which is to establish Dar-ul-Islam (land of Islam) by either forcefully converting everyone to Islam or by violence".³⁵ In 2008, the jailed chief of SIMI, Safdar Nagori, told prison interrogators that he had "... 'great respect' for Osama bin Laden..."³⁶ and that "...Taliban's Mullah Omar [is] the 'true caliph' of the Muslim world."³⁷

Islamic Circle of North America and the Terrorist/Jihadist Support

Ubaid has also been associated with the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) for many years, and was the secretary-general of ICNA³⁸ as well as the associate editor of ICNA's newsletter *The Message*.³⁹ ICNA is known for its Islamist views and has been under close scrutiny and criticism for alleged ties to Islamist extremist organizations and individuals around the world. In addition, ICNA has organized several controversial events, invited controversial individuals at its events and glorified terrorists who fight Jihad in places like Jammu & Kashmir and Chechnya. The following points about ICNA are noteworthy:

³⁰ "Letter to President-Elect Barack Obama from Coalition of Concerned Indian Americans", Coalition Against Genocide, December 8, 2008, <http://www.sacw.net/article393.html>.

³¹ According to Search of "Indian Muslim Council – USA", File Number 65000725 on the Illinois Secretary of State website at <http://www.ilsos.gov/corporatellc/CorporateLlcController>.

³² See reference to Syed Azmatullah Quadri on Page 3 of the November 2012 Newsletter of the Muslim Community Center at <http://www.mcccchicago.org/downloads/newsletter-november-2012.pdf>.

³³ John, Paul, "Cops had SIMI email intercepts in 2001." August 23, 2008, *The Times of India*, http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2008-08-23/ahmedabad/27923538_1_simi-activist-muslim-brotherhood-abdulhai-abdulsattar-silavat.

³⁴ See page 2 of the following brochure <https://web.archive.org/web/20040626135029/http://imannet.com/action/iman0602.pdf>.

³⁵ "Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI): Incidents and Statements involving SIMI: 2013, 2000-2012", South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/terroristoutfits/simi.htm>.

³⁶ Samanta, Pranab Dhal "Taliban's Mullah Omar our new inspiration, not Osama: jailed SIMI chief". April 12, 2008, *The Indian Express*, <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/talibans-mullah-omar-our-new-inspiration-n/296201/>.

³⁷ Samanta, *ibid*.

³⁸ See the following New Article in the *Daily News*, <http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/new-moon-begins-islam-holy-month-article-1.766434>.

³⁹ See Interview of Shaik Ubaid in October 1995 Edition of *The Message* archived at the following link: <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/689.pdf>.

1. ICNA's official website (www.icna.org) is registered to Raza Farrukh⁴⁰, whose <http://farrukh.net> was a mirror website of the Media Division of Jamaat-e-Islami, the Islamist extremist party of Pakistan.⁴¹ Jamaat believes in establishing a hard-core Islamic state based on Shariah law and has been known to lend support to the Afghan Taliban and Islamist Jihadists. In February 1999, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the late Chief of Jamaat⁴², gave an interview in a Baluchi Magazine *Jamhooria Islamia*,⁴³ in which he states:

...once in power, [Jamaat] will abolish the voting right of women and minorities who will be forced to become Muslims 'either by monetary or psychological factors' ... 'Our motto is constant jihad. The idea is to keep Pakistan in a constant state of Jihad all the time.' [Emphasis original]. His vision is that 'Pakistan will be the center of the new Islamic empire that stretches from Burma to Afghanistan and from Sri Lanka to Tajikistan, including Kashmir. Toward the end, the Jamaat will use all tactics from terrorism in the kafir-controlled area to negotiations in the Muslim-controlled areas.' [Emphasis original].⁴⁴

In addition, Jamaat's old website carried a link⁴⁵ to a highly biased and incendiary website on Hinduism by one Abdul Wahid. This was the sole information available on Hinduism on Jamaat's website. Titled "Hinduism: Inside and Out," the website opens with the following introduction to Hinduism:

It seems that a group of polytheists with a sick fetish for cattle have the audacity to launch an attack against Al-Islam. Yes, the irony is truly there, but these people have brought their own destruction from shirk (polytheism), so it is our duty to bring to light major points about this religion, which currently is oppression 98% of the country of India (as well as other Hindu-majority countries). From the articles that will follow, the reader will be able to easily see how sick of an atrocity Hinduism is upon humanity. If these people would only submit their hearts to Al-Islam and live their lives by the way of Syedna Rasul-e-Akram (Sallallahu alayhi wa Sallam), they wouldn't be in half of the predicament they exist in today, with all of their sorrows pointing towards one thing: Hinduism!⁴⁶

2. In July 2000, ICNA held a unity meeting with Jamaat al-Muslimeen, where several controversial speakers were invited. One such speaker was Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the late Emir of Jamaat-e-Islami. During the meeting, Ahmad declared emphatically: "Islam must be translated into political dominance...The sword and the Qur'an must go together..."⁴⁷ Another speaker, Dr. Kaukab Siddique, also an Emir of Jamaat-e-Islami, declared: "No Muslim today is safe from anti-Islamic forces...So Muslims must either participate in Jihad or be swept away...Jihad is on in Chechnya, Kashmir, Iraq (against US power), southern Sudan and is incipient in Bosnia/Kosova..."⁴⁸

⁴⁰ http://pir.org/domains/org-domain/?domain=icna&submitted=results&random=6rt518us4pmqwxm8b9z781yp97jo7533nnxyliig&password=wbwrph#domain_in_form. Accessed January 4, 2014

In addition, a Wayback Machine search of ICNA's old website also mentions Farrukh Raza as in charge of the web development team - <https://web.archive.org/web/19990221161632/http://www.icna.com/team.html>.

⁴¹ See the screenshots #5 and #6 retrieved by Americans Against Hate.org at <http://www.americansagainsthate.org/HamasDonorICNA.htm>.

⁴² <https://web.archive.org/web/20010917025931/http://www.jamaat.org/leadership/>.

⁴³ Arpi, Claude. *India and Her Neighbourhood: A French Observer's Views*. (2005: Har-Anand Publications Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi). pp. 106-107, retrieved online at http://books.google.com/books?id=wtz_VTk0fucC&pg=PA106#v=onepage&q&f=false.

⁴⁴ Arpi, *ibid*.

⁴⁵ <https://web.archive.org/web/20010917031035/http://www.jamaat.org/links/links.html>.

⁴⁶ <https://web.archive.org/web/20010917045929/http://www.geocities.com/~abdulwahid/hinduism/index.html>.

⁴⁷ <http://web.archive.org/web/20070205193049/http://www.cnsnews.com/pdf/2005/unity.pdf>.

⁴⁸ *Ibid*.

3. ICNA's October 1997 edition of its newsletter, *The Message*, prominently featured an exclusive interview with Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, the Supreme Commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, a terrorist organization that advocates a violent armed struggle against India in Jammu & Kashmir. Ahmed is also on the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) Most Wanted list.⁴⁹ In the interview, Ahmed proudly and optimistically describes the success of the Jihadi struggle against India:

The situation by the Grace of Allah, is very optimistic and most encouraging...And by the Grace of Almighty Allah, Kashmiri mujahideen have been vigorously engaging in open combat for the last seven years, resulting in the total loss of 20,000 troops of India, including four big generals, four to five brigadier-colonels (sic), and more than 250 major and captain-ranking people.⁵⁰

4. In the December 1997 edition of *The Message*, ICNA openly glorified Jibril Abu-Adam (born Lawrence Nicholas Thomas) as a 'shaheed' (martyr) in the name of Jihad in Kashmir. Abu-Adam, who trained at terrorist camps in Pakistan, was killed in a skirmish in Kashmir along with other terrorists who had crossed over from Pakistan. The newsletter states: "It is quite evident that Jibril's struggles were motivated by devotion to Allah (SWT). Clear signs that the conflict in Kashmir is jihad are numerous."⁵¹ The article goes on to glorify the terrorist act further:

On 26 October 1997, at the village of Doda in Kashmir, there was a skirmish. Thirty-four Indian soldiers were killed, and four Muslims became shaheed (martyrs). Allahu Akbar! Among those who became shaheed was Jibril, Insha' Allah. (It is reported from reliable sources that Jibril was responsible for killing 17 of the 34 Hindu fighters.) [Comments original]⁵²

The newsletter then concludes how Jibril was honored at the ICNA Southeastern Regional Convention in Atlanta:

On 29 November 1997, a plaque was presented to Jibril's family during the ICNA Southeastern Regional Convention in Atlanta. The inscription reads: Think not of those who are killed in Allah's Cause as dead. Nay they are alive with their Lord and have their provision (Qur'an 3:169). In recognition of Jibril Abu-Adam (also known as Lawrence Nicolas Thomas) [comments original] for his devotion to His Creator and his ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his fellow Muslims in Kashmir.⁵³

5. The cover page of the October 1995 edition of *The Message* features a UN protest on Bosnia where one man is holding a plaque that reads: "Self-determination for Kashmiris."⁵⁴ The fact that ICNA prominently features this cover photo shows their support for Kashmiri separatism.

⁴⁹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NIA_Most_Wanted.

⁵⁰ "Kashmiri Commander Speaks", October 1997, *The Message*, p. 28, pages archived at <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/485.pdf>.

⁵¹ Ama F. Shabazz, "Action Speak Louder Than Words", December 1997, *The Message*, p. 32, pages archived at <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/348.pdf>.

⁵² Shabazz, *ibid*.

⁵³ Shabazz, *ibid*.

⁵⁴ <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/689.pdf>.

Sadhana: A Coalition of Progressive Hindus

Sadhana was started in 2011 by a group of Hindus who consider themselves progressives. While the “progressive” label includes broad array of groups, individuals and organizations around the world, it is important to note that this label is used to also indicate left-wing or radical leftist activism in the case of Sadhana and other South Asian groups such as FOIL. In fact, FOIL and members of the radical Indian leftist cabal often deem themselves as “progressive South Asians” but are followers of communist and Marxist ideologies.

By using the Hindu label, Sadhana has successfully duped many young Hindus and the general public into believing that there is a large number of Hindus supporting such radical elements. Sadhana derives inspiration and partners with individuals, groups and scholars who hold a pejorative view of India, Hinduism and Sanskrit, and subscribe to the Hinduism=caste=oppression equation. It carefully selects writings of Indian leftist authors and leaders, out of context opinions and misinterpretations of Hindu ideas to weave a web of confusion and disgust against Hinduism and Hindus.

While it advocates loudly and forcefully against Islamophobia, it is very careful to avoid words such as “Islamic terrorism” or “Islamism” when referring to terrorist attacks by groups in India or elsewhere. In contrast, when incidents involve Hindu mobs or individuals, the group is quick to conjure up images of Hindu savagery via labels such as “Hindutva,” “caste apartheid,” “Brahmanism,” etc. A western reader or a naïve Hindu is therefore led to believe that Hindus and an “ostensibly Hindu” Indian government are oppressing minorities and want to create a Nazi style nation.

In fact, Sadhana co-founder Sunita Viswanath clearly outlined Sadhana’s mission in a June 2017 blogpost: to be a “...politically progressive Hindu voice in the face of a growing and rampantly Islamophobic and casteist Hindu nationalist movement.”⁵⁵

Sadhana’s vision of progressive Hinduism is further elaborated below. On August 14, 2015, Sadhana board members Sunita Viswanath, Chris Fici, Aminta Kilawan, Sethu Nair and Rohan Narine authored an article for The Forum on Women, Religion, Violence and Power at The Carter Center. Titled *Clarion Calls for a Progressive Hinduism*, the article discussed their reasons for starting Sadhana and how they were deeply inspired and mentored by several individuals, as they “...began searching for guidance in pursuit of [their] mission...”⁵⁶

One such individual is Balmurli Natrajan, a professor of anthropology at William Paterson University in New Jersey. Natrajan is also constituent member of the FOIL nexus of radical leftists groups. Sadhana cites the following words of Natrajan as inspirational:

Will progressive Hindus be able to move forward the liberatory [sic] potential within Hinduism, build a renewed sense of being a Hindu, and become part of the global processes of renewal underway in many other traditions? I believe that this is not only possible, it is a calling that is impossible to neglect. But it requires the unegotistic [sic] critique of much of Hindu scriptures, orientation to this world, and practices, and the simultaneous construction of a new Hinduism that will allow progressives to avail themselves of the sagacity that did indeed exist in the crevices of the past; identify with the struggles and spirit of those subalterns who hoped for Hinduism’s

⁵⁵ See June 17, 2017 blog entry titled *Not In My Name: I refuse to cede Hinduism to those who want to make India a Hindu rashtra* on Sadhana’s website at <http://www.sadhana.org/blog-1/>.

⁵⁶ *Clarion Calls for a Progressive Hinduism*. <http://forumonwomenblog.cartercenter.org/2015/08/14/clarion-calls-for-a-progressive-hinduism/#comments>.

fundamental renewal, even when facing the brunt of its oppressions [emphasis added]; creatively rework Hinduism's large corpus of symbols (including key concepts of maya, karma, dharma, and moksa) so that they become insightful teaching tools for living as a progressive; and establish new institutions (and reform or at least challenge existing ones) that will ensure the durability of the above energies and pave the way for a new understanding of heritage as never exclusive, but a selection from one's particular pasts that belongs to all of humanity's seekers of truth, equity, and justice.⁵⁷

The above quote provides important insights into the progressive Hindu mindset – it claims that the mantle of reformation rests solely in the hands of progressive Hindus because other Hindus or Hindu institutions are either incapable or unwilling to provide any reforms. It squarely blames Hinduism for oppression of subaltern groups (in this case, Dalits, women, Muslims and other minorities) and casts suspicions on the entire Hindu philosophical system. It then advocates that important and complex Hindu concepts must be “creatively reworked” into the mold of a Marxist worldview so that those supposedly oppressed by Hinduism can be emancipated.

Sadhana's alliance with the radical Indian Left goes back to its founding days. Its Facebook page came into existence around February 29, 2012 - only 2 days after the tenth anniversary of the Gujarat riots. This is noteworthy, because Sadhana's first and only significant statement on Facebook at the time was denouncing the “Gujarat Massacres,” and urging people of all faith, including Hindus “to combat religious extremism and religion-motivated terrorism, and instead insist on truth, peace and justice.” However, Sadhana applies such selective standards only when violence is perpetrated by Hindus. One would be hard pressed to find any significant sympathy or agitation towards the Hindus killed in the riots or those burnt in the Godhra train.



March 4, 2012 rally by Coalition Against Genocide. Source: Sadhana and *Voices of New York*

Similarly, on March 4th, 2012 - less than a week after its Facebook launch - Sadhana and Viswanath are seen joining hands with Biju Mathew and the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG) in a rally held in New York for the 2002 Gujarat riots.⁵⁸ In addition to CAG, other groups present included Non-Resident Indians for a Secular and Harmonious India (NRI-SAHI), Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM).⁵⁹ The deceptive tactics of such groups are easy to see once it is figured out that all the above groups essentially make up the Coalition Against

Genocide yet also list themselves separately to create an impression of a large number of organizations protesting against “Hindu horror.”

On July 23rd, 2017, Sadhana organized a protest against “Hindutva terror,” under the hashtag #Hindutvakills, in conjunction with the South Asian Solidarity Initiative (SASI), another initiative of FOIL. As mentioned in the beginning of the section, Balmurli Natrajan, one of Sadhana's inspirers, has been a

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ “Indian Americans Remember Gujarat Riot Victims a Decade Later.” March 21, 2012, *Voices of New York*, <http://voicesofny.org/2012/03/indian-americans-remember-gujarat-riot-victims-a-decade-later/>.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

veteran member of SASI. SASI's founder, Prachi Patankar, is also a veteran member of FOIL⁶⁰, while SASI is funded by the SINGH (Secular India's National Growth and Harmony) Foundation, the fundraising arm of FOIL⁶¹. Thus, SASI is nothing but another shell group formed by the same radical leftist nexus of FOIL. In 2014, Patankar and SASI, along with other similar groups, organized a protest outside Madison Square Garden against the newly (and democratically) elected Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Patankar demonized Mr. Modi and the Indian state and declared:

The rise of Narendra Modi is the result of the anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, casteist, and hateful ideology that propaganda has tried to sanitize with the false rhetoric of development and economic progress, which advances the super-rich while betraying the poor and toiling billion....These are the consequences of letting a man get away with genocide.⁶²

Such inflammatory statements reflect an outright dismissal of India's democratic process and judicial system, as well as the voices of hundreds of millions of Indians who voted in the elections. But, it also sheds light on the false propaganda of "Hindu terror" and "Hindutva," which paints riots as genocide and India's population as supporters of anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, casteist ideology. This definition resonates with Sadhana since it joined hands with SASI and organized the "Hindutvakills" protests.

In contrast to such activism, Sadhana merely posted a press release denouncing the attacks on Hindu pilgrims in Amarnath a few weeks before, carefully avoiding terms such as "Islamic terrorism." Their carefully crafted post gave the impression that such attacks are routine and probably a result of frustrated individuals angered by "human rights violations" by the Indian Army.

Viswanath, the main co-founder and the guiding light of Sadhana, has been a participant in the Left Forum⁶³, an umbrella organization of Marxist/Leftist scholars and activists including FOIL members such as Biju Mathew⁶⁴, Vijay Prashad⁶⁵, Balmurli Natrajan⁶⁶ and many others. The Left Forum also includes other FOIL initiatives such as the South Asian Solidarity Initiative (SASI), the Campaign to Stop Funding Hate (CSFH) and others.⁶⁷ Thus, Viswanath has been in association with these groups and individuals for a long time, deriving inspiration from and organizing events with them.

Sadhana ignores Hindu sentiments and remains relatively silent on the treatment of Kashmiri Pandits or Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh, while issuing strong statements supporting Kashmiri separatism under

⁶⁰ The following link provides names of prominent FOIL members, acknowledged by long time FOIL members Ali Mir and Raza Mir. Besides Prachi Patankar, the link highlights Biju Mathew, Angana Chatterji and several others. <https://books.google.com/books?id=KYbGBgAAQBAJ&pg=PT7&lpg=PT7&dq=prachi+patankar+biju+mathew&source=bl&ots=bb13Yi0PIZ&sig=8cbpvTRavqkj7nVuf44INFnxuk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj67u-NxZnVAhUBXD4KHR3NCicQ6AEIVjAN#v=onepage&q=prachi%20patankar%20biju%20mathew&f=false>.

⁶¹ <https://thetruthaboutliars.wordpress.com/the-report/chapter-iv-organizations-in-the-communistchristian-missionary-islamist-nexus-%E2%80%93-their-activities-positions-and-agenda/singh-foundation/>.

⁶² See "Statement spoken by Prachi Patankar of South Asia Solidarity Initiative at the rally against Modi at Madison Square Garden, New York, Sept. 28, 2014" at <https://ghadar2013.wordpress.com/category/uncategorized/>.

⁶³ See the section titled *Afghanistan: Should We Stay or Should We Go? A Critical Conversation: Foreign Policy In Focus*. http://www.keywiki.org/index.php/Left_Forum_2010.

⁶⁴ Ibid. In the same link above, Mathew is the chair of a Panel titled *Neo-Liberalism, State Repression and the Crisis of Indian Democracy*.

⁶⁵ See the Panel Members in the session entitled *South Asia Globalizing: What Ruling Classes Do When They Rule* at the 2009 Left Forum. http://www.keywiki.org/Left_Forum_2009.

⁶⁶ Ibid. Natrajan is introduced as member of Campaign to Stop Funding Hate and South Asian Solidarity Initiative.

⁶⁷ Ibid

the rubric of “right to dissent.” It openly and vehemently supports political candidates such as US Congressman Keith Ellison. Ellison was a leading voice against India on the issue of religious freedom, and the co-sponsor of a 2013 House resolution that called for a continued visa ban on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.⁶⁸ At the same time, Sadhana thrashes Hindu groups who raise concerns about Ellison’s failure to support resolutions that bring attention to Islamic terrorist attacks in India or human rights violations against Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Apart from the above, Sadhana openly supports Hindus for Justice, a new shell group started by Anirvan Chatterjee, a longtime member of FOIL, ASATA and Friends of South Asia (FOSA). As discussed earlier under ASAT, Chatterjee and FOSA were a key part of the coalition that fought against Hindu parents and groups in the 6th grade California textbook controversy, where Hinduism was portrayed unfairly when compared to other traditions like Christianity, Islam and Judaism. FOSA, CSFH, SASI and many other groups aligned together with various anti-Hindu elements to support a skewed portrayal of Hinduism and India in these textbooks, and derided a coalition of parents, students, elected officials and local community organizations for their attempts to reverse such prejudiced narratives. On November 3, 2017, Sadhana threw its full support to add a “progressive” Hindu voice against Hindu parents and groups who continue to fight prejudice in California textbooks, this time supporting yet another shell group called South Asian Histories For All Coalition (which was also mentioned under ASATA earlier).

Finally, Sadhana is a key organizer of the Sept 6th event at New York University. Apart from Sadhana member and NYU student Shashank Rao, panel speakers will include Shaik Ubaid, Biju Mathew and Raja Harish Swamy, among others. Ubaid’s view on Hindus and Hindu groups were discussed earlier under IAMC.

Mathew, on the other hand, is an Assistant Professor at Rider University, and the co-founder of the radical leftist group FOIL, along with Trinity College professor Vijay Prashad. Mathew is a known Marxist activist and has been attacking Hindu groups for thirty plus years. He has been instrumental in creating many coalitions and paper groups to advance FOIL’s radical leftist agenda – for example, South Asia Solidarity Initiative, Campaign to Stop Funding Hate, Coalition Against Genocide, Youth Solidarity Summer and many others. He is also associated with the Brecht Forum at NYU. In October 1998, Mathew was a key speaker at “Communist Manifestivity,” which was organized by the Brecht Forum to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Communist Manifesto.⁶⁹ Apart from that, Mathew’s writings have also been featured in *People’s Democracy*, the weekly magazine of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).⁷⁰

Mathew’s contempt for Hinduism and Hindus can be illustrated through his work in FOIL. In July 1997, FOIL’s Biju Mathew and Chris Chekuri interviewed Ilaiah in response to the “force-fed celebration of 50 years of independence”⁷¹ of India. The text of the interview, titled *The State of Dalit Mobilization: An Interview with Kancha Ilaiah*, was transcribed by fellow FOIL members Vamsicharan Vakulabharanam,

⁶⁸ *Theatre of the absurd to deny Modi a US visa*. December 20, 2012, *Rediff.com*, <http://www.rediff.com/news/column/view-absurd-to-deny-narendra-modi-a-us-visa/20121219.htm>.

⁶⁹ <https://www.mail-archive.com/pen-l@galaxy.csuchico.edu/msg30144.html>.

⁷⁰ https://web.archive.org/web/20051221174914/https://pd.cpim.org/2001/march25/march25_biju_vijay.htm.

⁷¹ Vakulabharanam, Vamsicharan et al, “The State of Dalit Mobilization: An Interview with Kancha Ilaiah, *Ghadar: A Publication of the Forum of Inqalabi Leftists* Vol. 1, No.2, November 26, 1997 <http://www.proxsa.org/resources/ghadar/v1n2/ilaiiah.html>.

Radhika Lal and Mir Ali Raza in the November 1997 edition of its newsletter *Ghadar*.⁷² FOIL and Mathew highlight several points made by Ilaiah in special boxes to endorse his views. For example, Ilaiah states:

Hinduism is a religion of violence. All Hindu gods killed their enemies and became heroic images. This is the only religion in the world where the killer becomes god. Whom did they kill? From Brahma to Krishna, those who were killed were Dalit bahujans. Now these images and the stories and narratives and everything is out there in the civil society. Now, because of this, the consciousness of worshipping the killer or worshipping violence did not give any space for human rights.⁷³

As a measure of further support for Ilaiah, it is important to point out that FOIL's project CSFH recommends his venomous works amongst the "Resources for a Progressive Hindu."⁷⁴ Similarly, a 2009 book *Against Stigma: Studies in Caste, Race and Justice Since Durban* (2009, Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd), edited by Balmurli Natrajan of FOIL, features an essay by Ilaiah, called *Caste, race and nation: A discourse in binary history*.⁷⁵

Raja Harish Swamy, an Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas, is another veteran member of FOIL and the radical Indian leftist nexus. Like his radical leftist comrades, Swamy is a staunch derider of Hinduism and Hindus and supports the racial Dravidianist ideology. Like his fellow FOIL and CAG members, he misses no opportunity to propagate the Hinduism = Caste = Racism/Oppression equation.

In 2001, Swamy wrote an article, *White, Zionist, and Hindu Racism: The Durban Question, regarding the UN Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa*. Subscribing to Dravidian and colonial racial theories, Swamy advocates equating the Caste System with racial discrimination encountered by blacks in the US, Europe and Africa. While he does not blame racist discrimination against blacks on Christianity, he swiftly attributes the woes of the Caste System to Hinduism and conveniently ignores discrimination practiced in the Sikh, Christian and Muslim communities of India. He then declares:

Hindu 'dharma' is caste-based; Hinduism is casteism; to be Hindu means to belong to a caste, and not as it is in most religions, to merely subscribe to a set body of beliefs. Hinduism has no universal religious requirements; therefore it is sufficiently open to interpretation along lines that are outrageously oppressive.⁷⁶

Thus, Swamy not only attributes the Caste System to Hinduism, he postulates that Hinduism is nothing but casteism and that one cannot be a Hindu unless one is casteist. Hinduism's metaphysical and philosophical schools of thought such as Yoga, Vedanta, etc., along with their major influences on world cultures and religions, are set aside to portray it as a religion of "racist oppressors." And, when Hindus denounce discrimination against anyone in their culture, such initiatives are branded as part of a grand "Brahminical

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Vakulabharanam, Vamsicharan et. al, "The State of Dalit Mobilization: An Interview with Kancha Ilaiah, *Ghadar: A Publication of the Forum of Inqualabi Leftists* Vol. 1, No.2, November 26, 1997
<http://www.proxsa.org/resources/ghadar/v1n2/ilaiah.html>.

⁷⁴ <http://stopfundinghate.org/resources.html>.

⁷⁵ See description of Content at <http://www.vedamsbooks.com/no61310/against-stigma-studies-caste-race-justice-since-durban-edited-by-balmurli-natrajan-paul-greenough>.

⁷⁶ Swamy, Raja, "White, Zionist, and Hindu Racism: The Durban Question". September 3, 2001, *Media Monitors Network*, <http://www.mediamonitors.net/rajaharishswamy1.html>.

conspiracy” to convert Dalits. On the one hand, Dalits are not recognized as part of Hinduism and, on the other, Hinduism is blamed for practicing “racism” against Dalits!

In 2013, Swamy, along with Biju Mathew, Shabnam Hashmi of ANHAD (Act Now for Harmony And Democracy - an organization that works closely with CAG), and a coterie of individuals known for their routine denouncements of Hindus and India, started a website called Pheku.in (www.pheku.in – the site has been taken down since Narendra Modi’s election as the Indian Prime Minister). Such websites are important examples of partnerships between radical Indians leftists in the US and their cohorts in India. For instance, while the site’s “.in” Indian suffix gives the false impression that it is registered in India and is run by people based in India, it was in fact registered to Swamy in the US.⁷⁷ “Pheku” is a Hindi slang for “liar” or someone who exaggerates claims. The website professed to expose then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi’s hyped-up claims about development and prosperity in Gujarat, as well as his record of atrocities against the state’s minority populations. Interestingly, some bloggers pointed out the exaggerated claims and outright lies floated by the website from the very outset. For example, MediaCrooks, a popular blog dedicated to exposing the lies and biased agendas of Indian media personalities, journalists and political figures, compared a few pictures used by Pheku.in to advance its agenda.⁷⁸ In one picture, Pheku.in attempts to denounce development of infrastructure in Gujarat by featuring a snapshot of a sewer in Gujarat. However, as MediaCrooks notes, the picture is actually of a sewer in Chennai. Similarly, a second picture attempts to highlight Narendra Modi’s policies toward child labor by showing little children working on a construction site. However, the picture is that of children working at a stadium in New Delhi.

Sadhana also endorses the view that Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo are extremists. On August 18, 2017 Sadhana board member Chris Fici penned a blogpost, titled *I’m an ambiguous Hindu*. Fici questions his Hindu identity and what it means to be a Hindu given his objections around the deep, existing “...stain and sin of casteism...”⁷⁹ in Hinduism. Thus, his ambiguity about his Hindu identity is analyzed solely through the lens of caste. Hinduism’s widely respected philosophical systems, contributions such as yoga, Ayurveda, non-violence, etc. are discarded as unimportant in shaping a grand narrative and his Hindu identity.

However, he is clear about Sadhana’s mission - “[to stand] as a riposte and a vibrant, humanist alternative to the various forces of Hindutva and other elements of triumphalist Hindu fundamentalism.”⁸⁰ This vision of Sadhana is also shared by Sadhana co-founder Sunita Viswanath in a July 2017 blogpost. There, she explains that Sadhana was started “...because [the founders] could no longer bear that there was no politically progressive Hindu voice in the face of a growing and rampantly Islamophobic and casteist Hindu nationalist movement.”⁸¹

Thus, it is clear that Sadhana views progressive activism through its lens of “Hindutva horrors.” The so called Hindu nationalist movement is also accused of being Islamophobic and casteist in the deepest of senses.

⁷⁷ Swamy is the registering agent for *Pheku.in* as per the Whois.Net domain registration search: <http://www.whois.net/whois/pheku.in>. Accessed January 30, 2014.

⁷⁸ “NaMo Inspires New Comedy Channel.” August 25, 2013, *MediaCrooks*, <http://www.mediacrooks.com/2013/08/namo-inspires-new-comedy-channel.html#.UvRKvbTdeSp>.

⁷⁹ Fici, Chri. *I’m an ambiguous Hindu*. August 18, 2017. <http://www.sadhana.org/blog-1/2017/8/18/im-an-ambiguous-hindu>.

⁸⁰ Fici, *ibid*.

⁸¹ Viswanath, Sunita. *Not in my name: I refuse to cede Hinduism to those who want to make India a Hindu Rashtra*. July 18, 2017. <http://www.sadhana.org/blog-1/2017/7/18/not-in-my-name-i-refuse-to-cede-hinduism-to-those-who-want-to-make-india-a-hindu-rashtra>.

But, what definition of Hindutva does Sadhana subscribe to?

In the above quote, Fici defines “Hindutva” by sharing a link to a review of the book *Hindutva: Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism* (2004: Penguin Global). The book is written by Jyotirmaya Sharma, a professor at University of Hyderabad. Sharma analyzes the rise of what he refers to as “militant Hindu nationalism” and the question of Hindu identity in the context of Hindutva. While discussing the origins and ideology of Hindutva, Sharma paints renowned Indian figures and spiritual giants such as Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo as Hindu supremacists. Sharma argues in his book that Sri Aurobindo was essentially anti-Muslim, who thought that “[placating] Muslims would amount to abandoning the greatness of India’s past and her spirituality.”⁸² Demoting Aurobindo’s contributions, thoughts and teachings, Sharma, concludes that “[the] maharishi turned into a pamphleteer of the Hindu rashtra concept without being conscious of it.”⁸³ Sharma then turns his ire onto Vivekananda, declaring him to be a “...proponent of a strong, virile and militant ideal of the Hindu nation...[who was] clear that Hinduism had to be cleaned of all tantric, puranic and bhakti influences and rebuilt upon the solid foundation of Vedanta.”⁸⁴ He surmises that such ideals are now implemented by modern day “Hindu extremists” to make India a Hindu nation via militant methods. A naïve reader is led to imagine such Hindus as the Taliban or ISIS implementing a radical form of Islam based on teachings of extremist Imams.

Besides the above book, Sharma has also declared in other places that Vivekananda was a supporter of the caste system, who wanted “...to create a single, seamless, undifferentiated and monochromatic Hindu unity with caste as the glue that holds this mythical unity together.”⁸⁵

Thus, Sharma demonizes two of the most recognized and respected Hindu spiritual leaders in modern times by essentially interpreting them as Hindu supremacists who didn’t appreciate the diversity in Hinduism.

By using Sharma’s definition of Hindutva, Sadhana essentially endorses that Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo were Hindu extremists and sympathized with oppression in the name of Hinduism.

⁸² *Hindutva: Exploring the Idea of Hindu Nationalism* book review- Four icons who became Hindutva ideologues. *Zee News India*, March 27, 2016. http://zeenews.india.com/entertainment/bookworm/book-review/hindutva-exploring-the-idea-of-hindu-nationalism-book-review-four-icons-who-became-hindutva-ideologues_1869616.htm.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Padmanabhan, Satish. ‘His Inclusiveness Is A Powerful Myth’: Vivekananda comes across as a Hindu supremacist, and not so much a social reformist. *Outlook India*, January 21, 2013. <https://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/his-inclusiveness-is-a-powerful-myth/283498>.

Ambedkar King Study Circle (AKSC)

The AKSC is a California based group that was started in October 2016 “to challenge caste, class, race, gender and religious oppressions and oppressors on ideological, political and social fronts.”⁸⁶ However, such activism almost exclusively focuses on “Hindu savagery.” For example, its September 2018 Conference features speakers such as Teesta Setalvad, who rose to prominence for her attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the aftermath of the 2002 Gujarat riots. Setalvad was chided by the Supreme Court of India’s Special Investigation Team for training people to lie and making exaggerated claims about various incidents in the Gujarat riots.⁸⁷ One of them was the case of Kausar Bano. According to the claims, Bano who was pregnant, was gang-raped by a mob, which then gouged out her unborn baby with sharp weapons and threw it in the fire along with her. On March 25, 2010, *India Today* ran an article showing that this claim was fabricated and that the doctor who performed Bano’s post-mortem in 2002 had concluded that “...her fetus was intact and that she had died of burns suffered during the riot.”⁸⁸ Such lies are also used by FOIL and other groups involved in various coalitions like the CDCD. Another conference speaker is Thenmozhi Soundararajan, founder of Equality Labs, a Dalit rights organization that also support Tamil Separatism. Soundarajan, Equality Labs and the AKSC have been heavily involved in California Textbooks campaign against Hindu parents, via the South Asian Histories for All Coalition.⁸⁹ Interestingly, this coalition included IAMC, ASATA and many others from the CAG, AJA, CDCD and similar coalitions that routinely fight against Hindus.

Another speaker at the AKSC is Dr. Ka. Thillaikumaran, a former president of the Federation of Tamil Sangams of North America (FeTNA), but also a board member of World Tamil Organization.⁹⁰ WTO and Fetna view India “Aryan/Brahmin oppressors” of the “Dravidian Tamils” and one that opposes the aspirations of Tamils to form a separate state/country. In this framework, various Hindu groups are deemed as agents of “Brahminism” whose sole objective is to eradicate an ethnic Tamil identity/race. Besides inviting speakers known for their support for Tamil Separatism, it is important to note that current and former board members of WTO and Fetna were arrested by Indian and US authorities on charges of support the terrorist group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (LTTE). In 2006, the FBI arrested Sacratris Nachimuthu (Nachimuthu Socrates), the former President and 2004 Board Member of FeTNA, along with 13 others, for plotting to “...buy weapons for [LTTE] and bribe agents posing as State Department officials to remove the group from a list of foreign terrorist organizations.”⁹¹ In another instance, “in 2005, according to the Chicago Tribune, Illinois Congressman Danny K. Davis went on a FeTNA-sponsored trip to the Sri Lankan Tamil regions and acknowledged that he ‘knew that [FetNA was] associated with the Tamil Tigers’.”⁹² And, in 2011, Thani K Cheran, a current board member of WTO and a former president of Fetna was barred from entering India because he was a strong supporter of the LTTE and “...organized

⁸⁶ <https://akscusa.org/about/>.

⁸⁷ Mahapatra, Dhananjay, “NGOs, Teesta spiced up Gujarat riot incidents: SIT”. April 14, 2009, *The Times of India* http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2009-04-14/india/28031729_1_riot-cases-r-k-raghavan-riot-victims.

⁸⁸ Mahurkar, Uday, “Inhuman rights”. March 25, 2010, *India Today*, <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/Inhuman+rights/1/89840.html>.

⁸⁹ <https://www.equalitylabs.org/south-asian-histories-for-all-coalition/>. Also, see AKSC’s link at <https://akscusa.org/california-text-book/>.

⁹⁰ <http://worldthamil.org/committee>.

⁹¹ Rashbaum, William K, “13 Tied to Sri Lankan Separatists Are Charged by US. With Aiding Terrorists”. August 22, 2006, *The New York Times* http://www.nytimes.com/2006/08/22/nyregion/22tigers.html?_r=0. A file copy of the FBI case is also available at <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:GYI10nw34G4J:gaming.typepad.com/files/usa-v.-fnu-lnu.pdf+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us> and a copy of the follow up sentencing of Socrates is available at http://www.tamilnet.com/img/publish/2011/08/ChandruSocrates_sentencing_argument.pdf.

⁹² Malhotra, Rajiv and Neelakandan, Aravindan. *Breaking India. Western Interventions in Dravidian and Dalit Faultlines*, (India: Manipal Press Ltd, 2011), 170.

many fund raisers to help the militant organization headed by [the] late Velupillai Prabhakaran in the 1990s.”⁹³

Ka. Thillaikumaran was also the voice of FetTNA during the 2005 -2006 California textbooks campaign against Hindu parents and groups.

In conclusion, the above information provides important insight into the ideological and political motivations of coalitions such as CDCD and their constituent members. They demonstrate chronic hatred towards Hindus and India, declaring Hinduism as inherently oppressive and India as a savage and chaotic place where minorities are constantly abused. They exaggerate their coalition numbers as well as statistics on violence, while openly supporting radical Jihadist and communist elements and causes such as Kashmiri, Sikh and Tamil Separatism. Some of their members and officers have also been arrested or investigated by US and Indian authorities on charges of funding or supporting separatist movements. Finally, they hold pejorative views on famous Indian personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, Swami Vivekananda and Sri Aurobindo and label them as warmongers, sexual abusers or extremist.

Therefore, it is imperative that regulators, media and the general public be aware of the deceptive practices, anti-Hindu prejudice and intentions of such alliances, groups and individuals.

⁹³ “Indian govt revokes visa of ‘pro-LTTE’ leader”. February 4, 2011, *India Post*, <http://www.indiapost.com/indian-govt-revokes-visa-of-pro-ltte-leader/>.