



A Message From Sadhguru Regarding the Mumbai Terror Attacks

By Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

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It is a matter of deep concern and regret that in the recent past, terrorist attacks and serial bombings killing hundreds of innocent people and maiming thousands more have become a matter of routine in the country. This recent dastardly attack in Mumbai is neither sudden nor unexpected. It has been building up for the last few years, and unfortunately, we as a nation, have neither shown the vision nor the determination to handle it the way it should be.

The purpose of terrorism is not war but to cripple a society with fear. Their aim is to spread the panic among the people, divide the society, derail the economic growth of the country, create strife, violence and lawlessness at every level – in other words, reduce the country to a failed state. We are facing the brunt of terror strikes in India today because of an imbalanced political approach. While these terrorists have been able to strike at will, openly challenging the authorities to stop them if they can, the administration is yet to apprehend them, much less, bring the culprits to justice.

Of all the kinds of violence, particularly religion-motivated terrorism is the most dangerous kind. You can speak reason to a man who is fighting for anything else, but when a man believes he is fighting for his God, there is no reasoning with him. When people are fighting for money, property, or something else, it is possible to negotiate with them because they are life-oriented; but those who are fighting for God, or working for God or doing God's work are only too eager to die and take all of us with them.

After more than a thousand years of external invasions, foreign occupation and extreme poverty this nation is now on the threshold of economic wellbeing. This opportunity has not come free, but out of much pain, suffering and sacrifice by generations of people before us. It is therefore our duty to bring their efforts to fruition and make their dreams come true.

It is obvious that there are certain elements who do not want this nation empowered. It is high time we defeated the nefarious designs of these anti-national elements.

There are those who are not committed to the idea of nationhood and they cannot be dealt with softly. If we want to preserve and nurture the sovereignty of this nation, these elements who are willing to kill indiscriminately and also die in the process, these elements whose beliefs are not concurrent with the fundamentals of the nation-state, should be dealt with an iron hand and a steely long-term resolve.

If we want to exist here as a nation, we have to learn the fundamentals of how to maintain the sovereignty of the country. For short-term political purposes, we are abusing the liberal ethos of this nation and its culture. Our leadership and the people do not seem to understand this.

We are talking about dharma in the wrong context: if our kindness, compassion and tolerance become a danger to ourselves, after some time, society will not value these qualities anymore. It is very important that anybody who threatens the normal functioning of society and the nation must be put down. The long-term solutions are different, but this fighting for God has to be put down, absolutely – it doesn't matter which section of society it comes from.

These terrorists are not always political pawns or tools in somebody else's hands. Those forces who cater to such elements are always there, but when one says, "Let's go fight and kill people for our God" – whether you directly participate in it or not, as long as you believe that your way is the only way, you are a part of it.

We are still unwilling to face that there are people among us who have such beliefs and intentions. Somewhere we think, forces from outside the border are pulling the strings. But help is coming from outside only because people here have these intentions.

Today, it has become fashionable for people to talk about the human rights of a terrorist, but there seem to be no rights for ordinary human beings who walk the street. It is a completely unfair way of looking at life. Someone who carries a gun or bomb, with the intentions of shooting and killing anybody on the street – innocent people, women and children – simply needs to be dealt with decisively.

There are larger, long-term solutions for these growing causes. We must nurture the integrity of the nation and a strong bonding among the people of different social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. We



must bring a more equal distribution of education, economic opportunities, wealth and welfare on all levels. The socio-economic development has to reach everybody so that youth don't go in the direction of terrorism.

All these aspects have to be taken care of over a period of time, but for immediate purposes, these terror activities must be put down strongly. This lawlessness has to be brought to an end.

In the larger picture, what we need for the country and the world is more inclusiveness in individuals and the institutions of society. And inclusiveness is not only the fundamental nature of spiritual processes, but the very basis and goal of life itself.

At this time of unprecedented tragedy in Mumbai, it is of utmost importance to stand together as a nation beyond all narrow divides of religion, caste, creed or political affiliations, and to support our security forces at all levels to perform their duties. I beseech all the various groups, political parties to fulfill the trust the nation has placed in them –that of protecting lives and properties of innocent people. Above all, I appeal to the administration to act in a decisive way and take this seemingly endless fight to a logical end.

My heartfelt condolences go to the families who lost their dear ones in this tragedy. These are the times when we need to display our spiritual strength and stability, and a determined focus toward a solution.

I am with you.

Sadhguru

For more information about Sadhguru, please visit www.ishafoundation.org

Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is an international speaker, author and peace advocate with profound spiritual and cultural insights on health and human potential. He addresses over 500,000 people annually at his public forums. Sadhguru is a realized master and yogi who has practiced yoga since age 13 and authored four books on the essential nature of yoga. Sadhguru has synthesized the science of yoga into a dynamic program that allows people to restore and maintain optimum health and inner balance.

Through his books, columns, articles and interviews aired and published in a host of international media, Sadhguru is considered an authority on yogic science whose teachings help people gain an inner understanding of the issues and events that happen to themselves and the world around them.

Sadhguru is founder of the Isha Foundation, a non-profit organization advancing physical, mental and spiritual health through yoga and self-transformation. The Foundation administers over 100 yoga centers, an ashram, residential complex and medical center in India, and conducts public programs around the world. His humanitarian initiatives for world peace and his outreach programs for Tsunami relief, prisoners, children and Action for Rural Rejuvenation in India are examples of his determination to improve the human condition for all people.

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