

## **The Role of Arya Samaj and Liberation of Hyderabad Karnataka Region**

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### **Introduction**

Nizam of Hyderabad had made his intentions very clear in the month of June itself. Through a Firman dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 1947, he declared his resolve not to participate in the constituent assembly and not to join the Indian union. He also claimed that the removal of the British paramountcy entitled him to declare his independence. He even went to the extent of declaring the national flag of India as foreign.

It is not so difficult to know the reason why the Nizam refused to join union of India. In fact, Mir Osman Ali Khan, the last of the Asaf Jahi dynasty was under the control of a fanatic organization by name “Majlis-I-Ittehad-UI-Muslemeen”. It was the voice of ‘Ittehad’ that gained victory in the state affairs and not the choice of Nizam. There was a considerable influx of outsiders who wielded a big deal of influence on the affairs of state administration. So it was a matter of worry for the local Muslims about their future, privileges and employment opportunities. As a result the Mulki and non-mulki fight became more spectacular in the state. The non-Mulki group for their safety began a movement of “Ittehad-ul-Muslemeen” (Muslims are one) to gain popular support of local Muslims to realize their dream of Azad Hyderabad.

This fanatic institution came into existence in 1926 and its founder president was one Mahamad Nawaz Khan. The Pathans and the Rohillas joined the group. So this group was called the ‘Razakar’s (servant of God) and under the leadership of Bahaduryar Jung and Kasim Razvi the organization rose to key position in the state affairs. It is needless to say that Nizam supported it.

Bahaduryarjung assumed the charge of ‘Ittehad’ in 1927 and under him the organization grew as a powerful check on the Nizam’s pre-rogatives. Between 1927-28 Bahaduryarjung demanded that the Hyderabad state should be declared as Muslim state. It was a great shock to Arya Samaj, nationalists Hindu Mahasabha and liberal minded Muslims who piously desired a responsible government for restoration of political, civil and religious liberties in the state.

Bahaduryar Jung died in 1944 and on the consequent death of Jung, the Nizam appointed Abdul Hasan incharge of Ittehad affairs. He was a liberal minded Muslim and had a soft corner for Arya Samaj activities and the state congress programmes. So Abdul Hasan was not a person to dance according to the tunes of Nizam. So Nizam appointed Kasim Razvi as president of Ittehad in 1946. The activities of Ittehad became more intensive from 1946 onwards and reached climax during 1947 and 1948. This period of Razvi is generally termed as ‘Reign of Terror’. Let us have a glance at the career of Kasim Razvi. He originally belonged to Latur in Maharashtra. He completed his graduation from Aligarh Muslim University and began his legal practice at Latur.

Kasim Razvi established Razakar institution in Hyderabad in 1947. Under his leadership Muslims took solemn pledge as crusaders to sacrifice their lives for Ittehad. “In the name of Allah – I do hereby promise to fight by power in the Deccan.” Razvi had

an excellent skill to organize men and material. He declared openly that the Muslims were the rulers of Hyderabad the Hindus had no share in the affairs of state administration. The state cabinet was formed as per his guidelines, Shia officials were made to retire from service and the Sunnis got upper hand in the state administration. He held all powers to control the State administrative machinery. Syed Taquiuddin, follower of Razvi was made in charge of spy department. The new police minister Moin Nawaz Jung was asked to hand over old rifles to Ittehad and to retain the new ones in the police custody. The police officials were duly instructed not to inspect and check the vehicles carrying the arms and ammunitions meant for Ittehad. So Razvi was nothing but a defacto ruler.

To achieve his goal, Razvi had a net work of Razakar organizations in the State. He stationed Razakar groups in 52 centres of Hyderabad. Each centre had 2000 trained Razakars. Here Razakar volunteers were enrolled and were given training to operate weapons. In Hyderabad Karnataka region such Razakar forces were stationed at Bidar, Gulbarga, Aland, Yelsangi, Raichur, Gangavati, Surpur, Kuknur, Kushtagi, Hanamsagar Rajoor, Koppal and Tungabhadra. The strength of Razakars in there centres varied from 400 to 650. The district head quarter had a special group of 2000 Razakars. In each district a committee was formed consisting collector, superintendent of police, and nominees of Razvi to monitor the activities. Taluka officials were instructed to assist in enrolling Razakar in towns and villages. Such newly recruited Razakars were to receive training for 21 days in looting, arson and in operating weapons by the retired army and police officials.

By January 1948 30 thousand Razakar volunteers were enrolled at Hyderabad and by July – August – 1948 the strength increased upto one lakh. Raichur and Gulbarga districts has special forces, the details are as follows.

1) Number of trained Razakars	-	5445
2) Number of 303 rifles	-	1054
3) Number of 303 single shock	-	625
4) Number of stein guns	-	100
5) Number of trained Mazal loading	-	3634
6) Number of Bnen guns	-	8

The Ittehad had its own transport wing including lorries, jeeps and trucks. The state government Radio Service was fully utilized by the Ittehad to broadcast its programmes. Ittehad published seven dailies and six weeklies in Urdu and these papers published speeches of Razvi prominently on front pages to seek the support from Islamic world. The activities of Razakar volunteers were as follows.

- 1) Organization of public procession all over the state to create a panic in the minds of the Hindus.
- 2) Torture of the Arya Samaj – Hindu Mahasabha members and the nationalists. Those who demanded responsible government were harassed.
- 3) To attack towns and villages and the union territories.
- 4) Collecting revenues (Karodgiri) from villagers.
- 5) Molesting – raping of women- murdering men and women.
- 6) Burning – looting Hindu shops and houses.
- 7) Forcible conversions of Hindu to Islam.
- 8) Harassment to state congress members.

The Razakar atrocities further continued in the village. The Belur Razakars under the guidance of Rasul killed Basappa and Anneppa brutally in front of the Laxmi temple of Gorta. In addition to this, the Razakars caught hold of Gurpadappa, Ram Rao Patwari, Narayan Rao Moktedar Basappa Malipatil and butchered them like animals in the village. The panick stricken people of Gorta village gathered at Mahduppa Dumane's house for safety. About 800 people got shelter here, local leaders like Kashappa Bhalke and Nagappa Hulember had rifles with which they continued their fight against Razakars till evening. During this conflict, Channappa Biradar, Maruti Kone and Mallappa Jagshetty became victims. From other directions the villagers used to throw stones at the Razakars and checked Razakars from committing further atrocities. One lady who was pregnant prayed not to kill her brother but the Razakars kicked the lady on her stomach and the lady died on the spot and the child came out from her womb. This was the nature of atrocity of Razakars. In the night the villagers fled to safer place. On this occasion Sidda Vira Swami, Rachoti Sivacharya, Suresh Swami Hiremath and Gurpad Sivacharya and others helped the needy people with food and shelter.

The very next day Razakars again came to Gorta and attacked Dumane's house and looted it. The entire village work a desert look, people had gone to safer place and took shelter in refugee camps. There were heaps of human skeletons in the street. About 200 villagers were murdered brutally. There was none to visit the dead bodies. After hearing this tragic news Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Swami Ramanand Tirth and K. M. Munsu visited Gorta (B) and report was sent to central government. It is said that the tears rolled down from the eyes of Jawaharlal Nehru when he heard the tragic news of Gorta.

In 1947 the Razakars attacked Chitguppa, a paiga unit, as there was a programme of national flag hoisting. Sri Virabhadrapa father of R. V. Bidappa was injured and Appanna, and Gundappa were killed in the attack. In Udgir-Donagaon area also the Razakars committed atrocities. There was one Yakub who gave trouble to people of Torna and Udgir area. There were brave youths in Donagaon village by name Chanvir and Manik Rao Mule. These two youth caught hold of Yakub and removed his eyes. After two months they were arrested in Donagaon and later after police action in 1948 they were released with the help of Tilak Chand. It is said that about 150 girls and women committed suicide because they were molested by Razakars during 1947-48 in Hyderabad Karnataka region. Ramachandra Virappa of Humanabad a staunch follower of Arya Samaj, was seriously beaten by the Razakars when he tried to rescue a lady from Razakars rape.

### **Gulbarga:**

In Gulbarga district also the Razakar atrocities were more intensive during 1947 and 1948. The following villages in the district were victimized. Mahagaon, Hebbal, Kamalapur, Chincholi, Kadaganchi, Nimbarga, Gangapur, Ratkal, Kurikota, Yelsangi Sarasamba, Kalgi, Jewargi and Aland etc.

The Razakars attacked Yelsangi village and looted the house hold articles including cash god and food grains. The villagers shifted to Sholapur refugee camp. Virupakshappa and Mahantgoud of Surpur were murdered by the Razakars during day time. On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1948 at Aland Razakars killed 42 innocent persons without any reason. On 17-9-1948 9 persons were shot dead at Aland by Razakars. Chandramappa,

Bhimappa, Revanasiddappa, Basavannappa, Ramchandra Chandranath Jindas, Rahuchand and Vithal were killed.

### **Raichur – Koppal:**

During 1947 and 1948 murder, rape and loot were the regular features in the Raichur district. Koppal, Gudigere, Kolar, Kavalur, Manvi, Kuknur, Belagatti, Banapur, Kinnal, Sudi, Kartagi, etc., were attacked by the Razakars. At Somawarpeth Raichur Razakars looted Rs. 60,000 from the residence of Savitri Sugayya. In Timmapur Peth in Raichur 60 huts were put to fire by the Razakars. Two Hindus were assassinated near police colony of Raichur.

The national Flag Day was observed on 15-8-47 in Kinnal, Koppal, Yelburga Kuknur, Navali Kushtagi etc. The nationalists and the samaj workers had taken part in Flag Day function like Siddappa, Panchakshari Hiremath, Sham Rao Desai, Raja Pinjar and Sudi Rachappa and they were arrested.

In Malagatti village Razakars looted wealth and molested women. Razakars killed tow ladies Shawamma and her daughter Laxmavva suspecting that they supplied secret information to freedom fighters. Alavandi Matha was looted and the documents were put to fire. Shantarasa of Raichur was teased by the police for hoisting the national flag at his village Hemberal.

Kavalur was another village on the border of Koppal area which was looted by the Razakrs who even did not spare the sacred ornament (Mangalsutra) of women and killed 3 persons. In Gangavati and other places national flag was hoisted in 1947. In this regard Benakal Bhimsen Rao Desai and others were arrested and kept in Gulbarga jail. Later Bhimsen Rao became victim in the jail.

The Charls given below give us the statistical information about the atrocities committed by the Razakars in Hyderabad Karnataka region between 1947 and 1948.

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of villages</b>	<b>Loot</b>	<b>Arson</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>Rape</b>
Bidar	176	35985475	6041400	120	15
Gulbarga	87	19641316	400	12	34
Raichur Koppal	94	531240	212750	25	63
Total	357	56158031	6254550	187	112

Complete statement of statistics about atrocities for the whole state.

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of villages</b>	<b>Loot</b>	<b>Arson</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>Rape</b>
Andhra	589	73707017	8681	347	909
Maharashtra	485	40220339	87	387	138
Karnataka	357	56158031	6254550	187	112

### **Role of Arya Samaj:**

The reign of terror between 1947-48 in the region witnessed the most in human atrocities by the Razakars. The situation was very critical for Arya Samaj workers and as well for the nationalists. The immediate need was to repost conscience in the minds of the people in the region. On large scale the people had abandoned their villages and had

taken shelter in refugee camps organized on the border areas. There was no law and order in the state. It was a very serious challenge to samaj workers.

In this regard the Arya Samaj launched the liberation movement joining hands with nationalists and other organizations. What was urgently required at this critical juncture was the joint venture to fight against the Razakars to protect people in the region. The Arya Samaj played a glorious role in controlling the situation and provided a chivalrous spirit to the people to continue fight against the Razakar attacks with courage and determination and with unity. Under the leadership of Pandit Vinayak Rao the Advocates refused to attend court activities. And Vinayak Rao used to send reports pertaining to the authorities of Razakars in the state.

As a step to a safeguard the people of the region, the self defence groups were formed consisting of able bodied and brave workers and nationalizing to give a befitting answer to the Razakar activities. These groups were provided with arms and ammunitions and the group members were trained to operate arms. In three districts Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur Koppal such groups were stationed and they started counter attacks on the Razakars. This was how the samaj workers and the nationalists took up arms against the Razakars in the region during liberation movement.

Samaj also encouraged the masses in the region to conduct socio-religious activities without any fear of Razakar attack to reassert their civil and religious liberties. All the festivals and the annual functions were to be conducted as usual in the region under the protection of self defence groups. Sharanabasaveshwara fair, in Gulbarga, Mahamaya Jatra in Kuknur of Raichur, and Virabhadrashwar fair at Humnabad of Bidar were celebrated with usual pomp and pleasure. The Arya Samaj had a revolutionaries wing of fought who desired to finish Nizam as he did not agree to join the union of India. Three youths Narayan Pawar, Gundayya and Jagdish made an attempt to do away with Nizam by way of bombing on the motor car of Nizam in 1947 at Hyderabad. But Nizam escaped.

The samaj workers shouldered the responsibility of collecting funds for running the refugee camps established on the borders. The national spirit was high on the people who contributed voluntarily to the arya samaj programmes. The Delhi branch played a vital role in this regard. Maharaj Anand Swami used to send Rs. 2000 monthly to Arya Samaj Hyderabad till the end of the freedom struggle. Even women came forward to take part in such activities in the region with great enthusiasm. Sangavva Ratkal, Gurubasavva Hatti and Akkamma Mahadev of Mahagaon entered the field of liberation movement. Kamamma of uppr dinni, Eravva of Belgeri and women of Matamari and Budadinni fought against Razakars. Women poured chilli powder and acid on the faces of Razakars and checked their atrocities. Kamamma of Chintalkunti of Raichur district displayed her national love and extra ordinary courage during the Razakar activities. She used to attend the speeches of great leaders and she used honour patriots without any fear.

Secondly the Samaj workers and the nationalists established refugee camps on the border areas together. The main purpose to establish refugee camps was to help the needy people and give them protection, in these camps distressed were provided with shelter, medicine and food Sholapur refugee camp was the biggest one where about 12000 refugees were accommodated.

Through these border camps the samaj not only helped the need ones but also intensified the counter attacks on the Razakars in the region. The samaj

workers and the nationalists managed these camps in a systematic way where service was the only motto. Bidar district leaders and samaj workers like R. V. Bidar and others displayed their bravery and chivalrous spirit.

R. V. Bidar was the camp in charge of Guddadmallapur and under his leadership about 24 villages in the Raichur Koppal area declared independence in 1947. It was a great heroic and historic event to be remembered. Hakikat Rai of Bidar district was the in charge of Maindargi camp which was efficiently managed, other important camps were Talikota, Itagi, Sindagi, Kesarjalwagi, Kakalmeli, Mundargi etc. Alvandi Sivamurthy Sastri played a heroic role in Mundargi camp. The workers of this attacked Kuknur police station and snatched away the weapons. This was how the refugee camps established on the border areas were able to control the Razakar activities by way of counter attacks on them.

In the Hyderabad Karnataka region the following refugee camps were established. Both Arya Samaj workers and the nationalist leaders worked together and shared the responsibility jointly.

### **The police action and liberation:**

Day by day the situation in the state of Hyderabad was becoming more and more critical. There was no law and order. The general insecurity of the people increased. Muslim journalist Shoebulla Khan editor of nationalist paper "Imroze" was assassinated in cold blood on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1948 since he favoured integration of Hyderabad with Indian union and for criticizing the barbaric and the human atrocities of Razakars in the state. In view of the developments all round in the state, K. M. Munshi, Agent general in Hyderabad of Indian government directed his efforts to convince the Nizam to accede to the Indian Union. But his efforts were of no use.

The action committee made a statement on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1948 requesting the people to shift to safer places their women and children. It also made an appeal to the government of India to intervene into the matter and find out a solution. "As the final custodian of peace and tranquility through India, it is imperative for the Indian union to immediately and effecting intervene". In the mean time the great leader of Arya Samaj Pandit Bansilal was invited by the Home Minister Government of India, Sardar Patel by telegram to have a dialogue about the condition of Hyderabad state. Accordingly Bansilal went to Delhi and met the Home Minister and explained in detail the prevailing situation in the state. He further requested Sardar Patel to intervene and take immediate steps to save the people of Hyderabad state. It is said that the Home Minister assured Bansilal that the Indian government would take suitable step at appropriate time.

So finally on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1948 the government of India issued an ultimatum to the Nizam and on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1948 'The Police Action' followed. In the early morning on Monday 13-9-1948 Indian army marched into Hyderabad commanded by Maj. Gen. J. N. Chowdhary as per the directions of Lt. Gen. Maharaj Sri Rajendra Singh assisted by generals from Bombay, Madras, C. P. and Berar divisions. The army headquarters named the police action as "Operation Polo".

The Indian army attacked Hyderabad from two directions (1) Sholapur to Hyderabad via., Naldurg (2) Vijayawada to Hyderabad. The enthusiastic masses offered excellent cooperation to the army operations. The entire show surprisingly came to a conclusion within four days. Finding his position unmatched to the army operations, Nizam of Hyderabad Mir Osman Ali Khan

surrendered on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1948 to the government of India as the Indian army entered into Hyderabad. Gen. J. N. Choudhary assumed the administration of the state as the military governor. The people of Hyderabad state rejoiced, delighted and breathed a sigh of relief and happiness.

Thus, ended the heroic struggle for freedom which came to the people of the state of Hyderabad as reward for their hand struggle. It was a great victory of democracy against autocracy. It was a unique reward for the united efforts, selfless service and sacrifices of the Arya samaj leaders workers and the nationalists of Hyderabad state in general and the people of Hyderabad Karnataka region in particular.

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