

Citizens voice outrage against twin explosions

A minute's silence as a mark of respect for the dead and wounded followed by a fiery speech set the tone for the Citizens against Violence and Hate meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

"Revenge for the innocent of Gujarat cannot be taken by killing the innocent of Mumbai. Will it become a crime to be innocent now?" asked columnist Hasan Kamal. **IE 29/8/03 4**

He was one of a panel comprising personalities such as lyricist and poet Javed Akhtar, businessman Ghulam Peshimam, architect Salim Dawawala, editor of *Hamara Mahanagar* Sajid Rashid and actor Farooque Sheikh.

Called at just 24 hours notice, the meeting was intended as a forum for Muslim citizens of the city to express their condemnation of the violence.

"These blasts happened not because there is communalism in India, but because there is not enough communalism in India to satisfy those who would like to see our society divided," stated Akhtar before making a point that many of the other speakers reiterated—that to identify any one community with those responsible for the deaths would be to help the terrorists and justify their claims.

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