

SMILE REPORT



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Gateway to Happiness

RELIEF & REHABILITATION WORK

Jahangirpuri | North-West Delhi



miles2smile foundation

**APRIL
2022**

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

On April 16th, communal violence flared up in Jahangirpuri following a provocative Hanuman Jayanti procession in the Muslim neighborhoods. It aroused the ghastly memories of North East communal violence of 2020. Three days after the communal disturbance, while the hostility was still raw, the bulldozers waddled to raze down the financial means of Muslim community.

On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti, a procession of Bajrang Dal members undertaking a Shobha Yatra reportedly reached the mosque in Jahangirpuri's Block C at 5 pm, when the incident took place. The mob with members of the Bajrang Dal went outside the mosque and tried to wave the saffron flag there. They were also dancing to loud music making the situation incendiary.



APRIL
2022



Flare-ups in an area not known for communal clashes should be seen in conjunction with a series of earlier events. Hindutva organizations were fanning grisly communal sneers through ban announced by the south Delhi mayor – a BJP leader – on the sale of non-vegetarian food, the alleged ABVP bid to enforce vegetarian diet in JNU and the murder of a farmhouse caretaker by cow vigilantes in the capital.

A group of 150 to 200 people, carrying arms, blaring loud music and raising slogans, had been roaming around in a procession (*shobha yatra* for Hanuman Jayanti) since the afternoon in Jahangirpuri. Pistols and swords were brandished by the marchers – in line with the content of video clips aired by some TV channels.

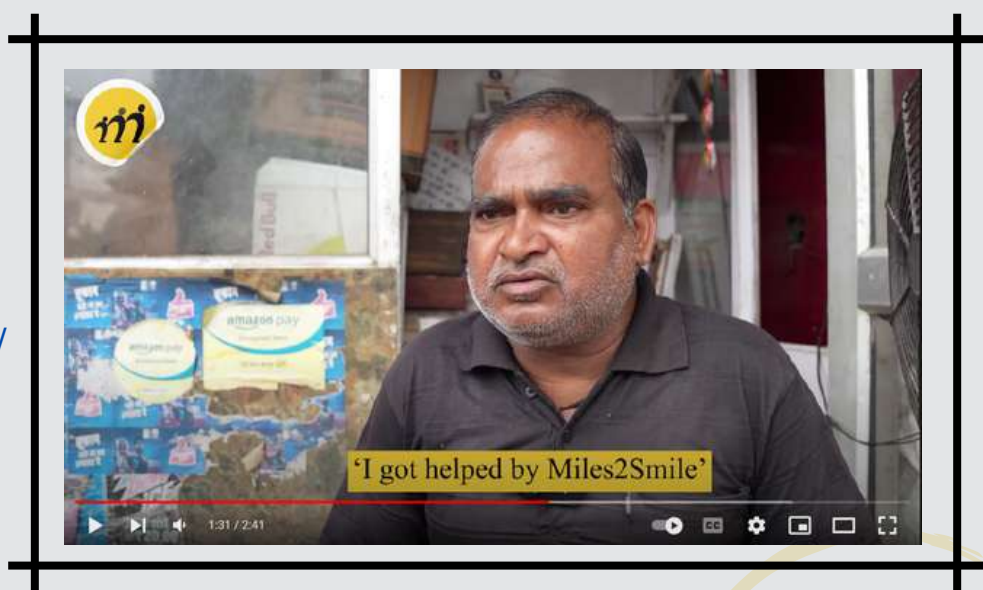
Procession had been organized not by people from the neighborhood but by the Bajrang Dal, with most of the participants being from outside the area. The procession had already made two rounds of Block C, where many residents are Bengali-speaking Muslims, without any untoward incident.

It was during the third round of the procession (around 6pm) that trouble broke out. If there was a conspiracy by the Muslim residents to disrupt the procession as alleged by BJP leaders, the attacks would likely have taken place earlier. The incidents occurred when the procession stopped outside a mosque at the exact time when those observing roza (fast) during Ramadan were gathering at the mosque for prayers.



Click on the link to watch the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfj2Me3jRgs>



Bogey of illegal migration

Right wing organizations employed the violence to bluff about the illegal Muslim migration from Bangladesh. They alleged that illegal migrants are the root and cause problems. earlier, there had never been a communal clash in the area, where Hindus and Muslims have been living together for decades. The Bengali Muslims have been living in Jahangirpuri since the inception of this resettlement colony, at least four decades ago. The mostly self-employed residents are involved in street vending, petty trade, and fish selling and waste collection. It is shocking that the Muslims of Jahangirpuri are as “illegal” as Rohingya refugees. They are bona fide citizens, the local residents said. Jahangirpuri is not unauthorized. It is a resettlement colony – a space given by the state to resettle its residents. The women and their parents and grandparents who live in Jahangirpuri today were evicted from JJ colonies like the Yamuna Pushta in the 1970s and settled here. They were always informal workers, many doing kabaddi work, and most of them still are.



Bulldozers scramble to destroy livelihoods

Photo: Eshwar/twitter



The NDMC, on April 20, launched an anti-encroachment drive in Delhi's Jahangirpuri and the demolition drive had followed just days after communal clashes erupted in the area. Hit by communal violence days. Earlier, Jahangirpuri saw seven bulldozers roll into the neighborhood on orders of the BJP-led North Delhi Municipal Corporation, razing parts of several structures, including the exterior gate of a place of worship.

The demolition, which started around 10.15 am, went on for two hours despite the Supreme Court's directions at 11 am that status quo be maintained. The demolition action came a day after the civic body wrote to the North West DCP requesting 400 police personnel for what it called an "anti-encroachment drive".

This came after Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta had written to the North MCD Mayor Tuesday demanding that "illegal encroachment done by rioters be bulldozed".

Scrap dealers and vegetable vendors scurried to pack their belongings in white gunny sacks, with one question on everyone's lips: "Bulldozer aa gaya?" With residents coming out of their homes to see what was going on, security forces – numbering over 1,000 – confined people in narrow lanes and took up positions on rooftops.



Photo: The Print

A BOY PICKING THE REMNANTS LEFT AFTER DEMOLITION



RELIEF WORK



Miles2smile went to the area that day to see how things were going on the ground. We found that the residents had different stories to tell, as was being shown on TV screens by our National news channels.

We met Raheema, Akbar, Raman, Ganesh kumar and many other people who have been living there for over three decades. Their children played together; they prayed and celebrated together as a collective. Both communities had stood by each other through many years of happiness, sorrow, stress, and joy. There was never any communal tension or disrespect between the families, we were told.



The second time we went there during the demolition drive, the level of security was significantly increased, and there appeared to be an extensive deployment of police and other security forces. The situation regarding law and order appeared to be completely under control. Yet, irreparable damage has already been caused to the lives of the many residents, street vendors and shop owners, as several of them had lost their peace, livelihoods, and dignity in the aftermath.

The two-hours of demolition drive by NDMC left many families wailing on streets over loss of their sole source of income. Miles2smile assisted 23 such families with Rs. 14.5 lakh and got their businesses running again at a time when their souls were shattered and the smiles lost.



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SMILE STORIES

RAHEEMA BEGAM



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Rahima lived in Jahangirpuri's C block, which was the center of the April 16 violence. On April 20, her shop was demolished as part of the demolition drive. She used to make Rs 300-500 per day selling water, chips, and biscuits. As a result of violence, shops in the area were forced to close for a few days. So, Rahima depleted all of her savings to purchase groceries for her family, not knowing that the following day, she was going to lose her sole source of income, the only way she could afford to feed her children two square meals a day.

Even though she had a license which she showed us, the government still tore down her store. Aside from that, the electrical wiring of her house was also damaged.

On April 20, when the fleet of bulldozers arrived, desperate Rahima sought reassurance from the police and asked them repeatedly if her shop will be demolished? They reassured her again and again that bulldozers are only here to clear the waste in the area. But just hours later, shards of broken glass, an overturned fridge with its contents spilling out, and a mound of rubble was all that remained of Rahima's shop.

She has three children. Her 11-year-old son tearfully picking up stray soft-drink bottles that had been spared by the bulldozers can be seen in the pictures that went viral on the internet post demolition.

"I urged them to at least let the fridge be, so we can rebuild our shop, but they left nothing," said Rahima.

The police latched her inside the house from outside. Her 'reri' [shop] was in front, and the house just a few feet behind. She kept pleading with them that she had all the documents, and permission to run this shop, but they did not listen to a word and just started breaking everything down.

Somebody has cursed us," Rahima sobbed when we first met her. "In our slum, when a Hindu living alone died, the whole locality cremated him. We are a peaceful and loving locality. I don't know why they are doing this to us," said Rahima.

Rahima dropped out of school after completing the sixth grade with the help of an NGO. Though, she enjoyed going to school but was forced to leave because her parents could not afford it. Since then, she has been out doing many odd jobs to support the family. Her husband too never went to a school. Their children, however, are now attending school with the help of miles2smile. We provided Rahima Rs 25,000 to get a new fridge so that her business could resume.



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GANESH KUMAR GUPTA



Sitting on a plastic chair near the ruins of his shop, Ganesh said, he thought they were here only to raze illegal shops. I didn't know they will demolish my shop too.

Ganesh Gupta's juice shop stood a small distance away from Rahima's and was also demolished. He said that his father set up the shop in the 1970s. After his death, he took over the reins. In the past, when MCD conducted inspections and issued notices, he showed them his documents and they were always satisfied.

But this time, 54-year-old Ganesh Gupta kept pleading and shouting that at least look at the papers once. He kept pleading before officials to give him some time but they continued with demolition. "This is brazen," he shouted at the top of his voice saying that his father ran this shop and he also has legal papers. But without hearing a word, they dismantled his fruit juice kiosk.

He has lived in Jahangirpuri's C block since 1977 and has never witnessed such brutality. He indicated to a man named Akbar that NDMC had destroyed his business even though he also had his seller certificate. According to him, various licensed businesses were destroyed for no reason.

When miles2smile visited him, he was feeling hopeless about how he'll restore his livelihood. We helped him with Rs 1 lakh for restoring his shop.



**Watch the full story by
clicking the link**

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=wGAzluKltM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGAzluKltM)



RAMAN JHA



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52-year-old Raman Jha has lived in Jahangirpuri's C-block since 1984. He ran a small paan shop (gumti) from which he used to bring in between Rs 5,000 and Rs 6,000 each month because the business had come to a halt during the lockdown. Besides, he also used to perform puja-recitation at people's homes.

Raman said he received a phone call from his brother who informed him about the demolition drive at about 11:30 am. He and his wife did not waste any time and hurriedly made their way to the shop. When the number of MCD staff and police force increased in the area, he asked them if their shop would also be demolished. MCD staff told him that his shop was not in danger, but as soon as the bulldozer came, his shop was first demolished. Raman said he was running a licensed shop.

Raman was concerned that the shop from which he used to earn Rs 5,000 a month has now closed its source of income. The shop was completely broken. His goods had been damaged and the worry of how the shop will be set up again was bothering him when Miles2Smile learnt about his loss. We gave Raman Jha a sum of Rs 75,000 to rebuild his paan shop.



Watch the full story by clicking the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W-4f2hOQIBs>





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SAJID SAIFI



Sajid ran an electrical repairing shop named "Electronic Gallery" in G block of Jahangirpuri. In the NDMC's demolition drive, he lost many of his equipments and the shutter of his shop. He pleaded with the corporation officers, and also showed them his papers. But they were unconvinced. Sajid told that earlier, they had visited the area several times for demolition drives and his papers had always protected him.

But this time, they did not listen to him and tore down the shutter of his shop. He wasn't as upset about his own loss as he was about the prevailing situation. He was born and raised there. He has been running his shop for many years in the area. He says, we have all lived here so peacefully. It's wrong what's happening,". "This is an act of revenge. It hasn't happened in decades, but happens four days after violence," he said. The gate of Jama Masjid, next to his shop was also bulldozed. Miles2smile assisted Sajid with Rs 80,000 with which he restored his damaged shutter and bought new equipment.

JAHANGIRPURI NORTH-WEST DELHI



T W I T T E R W A L L



Miles2Smile @miles2smile_ · 28 Apr
Raman Jha had a small Pan shop at **Jahangirpuri** that he was running for 35 years. It was completely bulldozed in the recent drive. We helped Raman Jha with Rs 1 lakh from the fundraiser. +



11.5K views

8

226

778



[Show this thread](#)



Miles2Smile @miles2smile_ · 01 May
Ganesh's Paan shop was one among the demolished shops in Jahangirpuri area. This was the only source of livelihood for him. We helped him with Rs 1Lakh from the fundraiser.



8,905 views

5

149

557



Mohammed Zubair @zoo_bear · 24 Apr
As it's a weekend, Ketto will transfer funds to @miles2smile_ hopefully by tomorrow. Team Miles4smile is planning to transfer the amount to victims in Phases from tomorrow. Starting from **Jahangirpuri**, Khargone, Roorkee etc....

10

88

512



[Show this thread](#)

Miles2Smile @miles2smile_ · 28 Apr

We would like to thank everyone who donated in the recent **#Ketto** drive to restore the smiles that were devastated by the communal violence in Khargone, Sendhwa, Roorkee, Himmat Nagar & by the demolition in **Jahangirpuri**. We raised a total of 1.07cr from the drive. +

Several Families In Khargone, Jahangirpuri, Etc, Whose Homes & Shops Were Bulldozed, Need Your Help To Restart Their Lives.

Tax Benefit



Kaushik Raj @kaushikrj6 · 22 Apr

.@miles2smile_ foundation is raising funds for several families in Khargone, **Jahangirpuri**, etc. whose homes & shops were Bulldozed.

Please donate if you can.



ketto.org

Several Families In Khargone, Jahangirpuri, Etc, Whose Homes & Shops Were Bulldozed, Need Your Help...

1

33

59



THE SMILE COUNTER



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1

Smile Project

208

(S) miles Covered

192

Smile Hours

132

Smiles Restored





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ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Miles2Smiles was established in 2020 as a not-for-profit organization, based in Delhi. The organization works primarily in relief activities and brings smiles to the faces of victims looming over penury and distress. Livelihood creation and educational empowerment are also some core areas of work by the organization. In the past two years, the organization has made commendable service in delivering solace to the people languishing in the heap of despair. The organization is on an assiduous mission to revive happiness to the people ripped after communal tensions.



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