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Gateway to Happiness

SMILE REPORT

KHARGONE RELIEF WORK

Khargone | Madhya Pradesh



MILES2SMILE FOUNDATION

20
10 April
22

INCIDENT OVERVIEW

On April 10, a frenzy of anti-muslim violence swept across the Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh. It took place on the occasion of Ram Navami, which fell this year in the holy Muslim month of Ramadan. It was a rare synchronization that had occurred after 33 years. In Khargone, that day around 11 am, Raghuvanshis started their annual Ram Navami rally from Talab Chowk area to finish at the Ram temple by noon. Some tensions were said to have erupted when the BJP state vice president Shyam Mahajan expressed displeasure over police barricading around Talab Chowk, the location of the town's Jama mosque.

While no incident took place during the rally, this altercation led to a rumor that police didn't allow Hindu procession to take their route because it was a Muslim locality. Shortly after, a second march led by rumor under the banner of Gau Raksha Samiti started preparing to move along the same route with tableaus and posters of recently released Anupam Kher's film The Kashmir Files with a catchphrase 'JagoHinduoJago'. The highly charged mob that reached there in the second rally raised objectionable slogans in front of the mosque while playing provocative songs on DJs. Sometime between 5-6 pm, when Muslims started gathering for their routine Ramadan prayer at Jama mosque, the virulence and passion of their sloganeering reached a new pitch. Videos showed hundreds of them dancing and cheering in unison to songs blared from loudspeakers that included calls for violence against Muslims. It was around this time, the tensions escalated heavily resulting in brickbats and stone showering between the two communities. Soon, in confabulation, police resorted to lathi charge to disperse the angry mob .

Who instigated whom and who first pelted the stones remained a matter of investigation but what unfolded later was a blind orgy of violence. The alleged stone pelting provided an excuse for unleashing large-scale calculated attacks on Muslims.

Over 250 houses, largely of Muslims, were rocked by brutal violence that day and a young Muslim man had lost his life. When this didn't seem enough, bulldozers were rolled over their houses and shops a day after the violence.

"The worst sting of violence is not necessarily in the violence itself, but in the long months and years afterwards, as the unresolved suffering of its victims is gradually forgotten about"

RELIEF WORK

The organization initially made two visits to the area to review the extent of losses the violence put behind. Afterwards, the organization appealed to the generous minds to offer financial donations to help people devastated in the violence. Alhamdollillah, soon, in a span of two weeks, the organization was successful in collecting Rs.70,50,000 for the victim families of Khargone. Without any further delay, Miles2Smile transferred the amount to the needy people to help them move through their difficulties so as to put their smiles back on their faces. We restored their damaged houses, sources of livelihood and also provided over 22 families with ration for a month. From the collection to the disbursement of funds, the organization functioned speedily and with utmost transparency. A detailed description of the assistance provided has been attached at the end of this report.



**Click on the link to
watch the video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnWCJolK67A>



REMNANTS OF DESTRUCTION



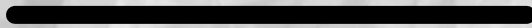
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SMILE STORIES



Mother Lost Her Son to Hate

Recalling the frightful night of April 10, Ibris' mother looked glazed, without an expression. It was at around 6:30 p.m. when he left for his uncle's house to deliver a plate of iftar and never returned then. A week later, his dead body was found 120 km away at MY hospital in Indore.

His wife Muskaan, against all odds, hoped that her husband would come back hale and hearty. Her toddler son had just learnt to call him abbu. For them, it was now a somber world to grow up in. We assisted both Mumtaz and her daughter-in-law with five-lakh rupees to meet their living expenses. In the midst of the sadness caused by his son's death, Ibris' mother was grateful about the help, they received by Miles2smile.

"Ibris was the first reported casualty in Khargone violence. According to post mortem reports, he died of severe head injuries. His mother and wife accused police of keeping his death a secret. A fact finding report also stated that police had deliberately suppressed his death for seven days in order to make way for the administration's one-sided demolition drive that only targeted Muslims. Had the news of Ibris's death been revealed on the very first day, the administration wouldn't have carried the demolition drive with such propensity.



The Story of Shocking Brutality



Mehrun Bi lived in Anand Nagar area with her two daughters. She was sleeping inside her home when two men whom she identified as neighbors barged in from the rooftop carrying swords in their hands. One of them brutally struck the sword on her face, mouthing religious slurs and turned the sword against one of her daughters too, as she intervened.

Mehrun's daughter was bewildered to see the neighbors they had known since a long time suddenly turning into predators demanding their blood. They also looted her house and ravaged everything they could. Mehrun bi and her daughter Zubeda received 2 lakh rupees each by Miles2Smile foundation to subdue the tragedy that befell on them.



We Don't Have Anything Left

Siraj Bi is a 50-year-old widow and the mother of two daughters. She had just finished iftar after the Maghrib prayer when she heard a loud noise outside her house, like the boulders were falling from a height. When she stepped out, she saw a mob of around 300 people approaching her house. She hurried inside, and bolted the door. First, she tried to reason with the mob saying – “there are no male members in my family. I live here with my two daughters only, please leave us alone,” but the mob hell bent on ‘teaching the other community a lesson’ didn’t listen and busted the door. However, she managed to escape from a back door.

The next morning when she arrived, she saw her house burnt, and the grains scattered on the floor along with burnt currency notes – which she had saved for her daughter's wedding. Among her belongings scorched that day were also the clothes she had stitched for her daughter's marriage. The elderly widow weaved garlands for a living. Using the money given by Miles2Smile, she has now repaired her damaged ceiling and is slowly moving past her difficulties.





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

[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=nMZuuSVeZ7c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMZuuSVeZ7c)



House Burnt in the Communal Flame

Salma Bi is a widow, who lived in the Sanjay Nagar area with her two little kids and a mother-in-law. She was struggling to cling on to any hope that her life could be pieced together ever again after the violence-ravaged her house completely. We were glad to be the first organization coming forward to take up the responsibility of reconstructing her house. The kind help she received by Miles2Smile foundation, in the times, when she needed it the most is something she says, she can never forget.



Watch the full story by clicking the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkCly7lMqoc>



Reclaiming smiles lost in the violence

The eve of Ram Navmi soaked the family of **Abdul Malik** in sorrow and depredation. There are five members in his family that comprise one mentally challenged sister, his wife and his elderly parents who incurred collateral financial loss and still suffers from the trauma of violence that unfolded on the day of Ram Navami celebration, when Hindutva bigots ran amok.

Their house, which entailed their dreams and shield from natural harms, was laid waste in the delirious communal orgy. For no fault of theirs, their house was pillaged and devastated, on the mere suspicion of sheltering some people based on whatsapp rumors.

When Miles2Smile visited them, they were still reeling from deprivation and despondency. Miles2SMile provided them with 3 lakh rupees to ameliorate their pain and bring back smiles on their faces.





Watch the full story by clicking the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lx1NeOpyDoA>



We Don't Have Anything Left

Rashida stood helpless that day under the blazing sun as a bulldozer tore through her only house, including her shop which had not much to look at but it was where the 60-year-old earned her living - selling cold drinks, candies and other sporadic items.

When we met Rashida, she was distraught. She neither had savings nor resources to build anything all over again. With nowhere to seek protection from scorching heat, her face was bleak with inexorable gloom.

We quickly responded to her plight by arranging a generous amount of 2 lakh rupees through a fundraiser. Battling with a sappy and fickle mental-state, the financial relief she received from Miles2Smile brought solace in her life. We also gave her an Eid kit which we distributed to all affected families in her locality.

"Rashida Bi is among the 22 families who lived in Khaskhaswadi area. Most residents who lived in this area are uneducated daily wage earners. Their houses were demolished by the state saying they were built in an unauthorized way. And the co-incidence couldn't have been more remarkable. It happened a day after the violence with no prior notice. They were rendered homeless while also no alternative accommodation was offered to them".





House Bulldozed

It was a hot and humid day, when Roshni found a bulldozer parked alongside the road to her home. In the morning, she had a cup of tea with her husband, who worked as a cart puller. While her husband ate the leftover chapatis from the previous night's dinner, Roshni was hungry. Her son Arman and his two younger siblings had taken a packet of Parle-G biscuits with tea. That was the only meal they had together on that fateful day when the bulldozer rumbled over their house crumbling everything they owned.

The organization was quick in responding to the woeful circumstance by providing her an assistance of 3 lakh rupees. She was grateful for the help while ceaselessly thanking the organization. After receiving the aid, Roshni resolved to let the raw wounds close and carry the life forward.





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First Built the House Then Demolished

Hasina Fakhroo's house was also among the houses which got demolished for being an unauthorized construction despite it being built under the PMAY scheme following the death of her husband in 2018.

After witnessing the demolition of her only house which she had built with many hopes, Hasina was shattered from inside. Staring at the remains, she cried her heart out when Miles2Smile visited her. The organization immediately started a fundraiser and collected two lakh rupees from our compassionate donors to mitigate her sufferings.



Livelihood Lost

28-year-old Mohsin ran a mobile shop where he sold various electronic devices and gadgets. He had worked really hard to establish a shop of his own and now that he enjoyed knowing and seeing some familiar customers from his neighborhood and had developed a good relationship with them over the past few years, his shop was demolished by the government in the wee hours of an anti-encroachment drive carried out on April 11, 2022.

He could not understand the reason why his shop was demolished. No government official ever informed him about his shop being under any kind of scrutiny. Even the violence affected area was around 2 km away from his shop. Miles2Smiles visited his pillaged shop and gave him one-lakh rupee. With our help, he has restarted his business all over again.





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

<https://youtu.be/wgeBm9xT-nc>



Punished for Being Muslim

45-year-old Sahdullah Baig is standing among the rubble of what was once his modest two-bedroom home. Scraps of wood, rusty metal and garbage lined the sandy pavement outside his home, where his three young children played.

His house was one of several properties in Chhoti Mohan Talkies area which saw arbitrary demolitions on April 11, 2022. There is an extra sense of injustice for Baig as the demolition was carried out thirty-meters beyond the control line marking unauthorized construction. He was stricken with grief as he watched his house being taken down wantonly. Miles2Smile gave him a sum of 3 lakhs to recollect his defiled dreams of a better tomorrow.





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Man with No Hands Punished for Stone-Pelting

38-year-old Waseem Ahmad Sheikh is a man of tallent. He used to do paintings. But his dreams were shattered by an electric shock 17 years ago while working in a factory. His story is extremely painful and heart wrenching. Even after losing both his hands in the accident, Wasim was making a living for his family which comprised a widow mother, and his two kids. Waseem lived in the Sanjay Nagar area. According to him, out of pity, his friend Mukeem Khan had given him permission to keep a stall (gumti) on his land located in the Choti Mohan Talkies area.

Through this stall (gumti) Waseem had gathered in an effort to become self-dependent by selling kites, parle-biscuit and other items of common necessities. According to Wasim, he has been running a Gumti on the land of Mukeem Khan for the last 12 years but the Ram Navami violence once again had brought him (Wasim) to the same crossroads where he had stood after losing his hands 17 years ago.

How will I feed my children? What will I do next? How will I send them school? All these questions were incessantly striking his mind. Had he been given a few notices before the demolition of his stall (gumti), he would have put facts before the administration, lamented Waseem. His stall was demolished by authorities on Apr 11, 2022, in an anti-encroachment drive. Dejected, he was afraid of feeding his family, when Miles2smile visited him. We provided him with an assistance of one lakh rupee. Using the money, he has set up a small shop again and is making a living.



Livelihoods Up in the Smoke

Arif owned a plastic recycling plant in a far away location from the violence hit areas. He was in Indor at his brother's house when he first got the news over a phone call about his plant catching a massive fire. Hearing about the news, he immediately rushed to the town. But till the time he reached, major loss was done. The blaze had spread rapidly through the stored plastic material, and had engulfed the plant machinery also. He estimated his damage at around 50 lac rupees. Presumably, a few local eye witnesses revealed that it was not an accident but in fact the plant was deliberately set on fire, as it belonged to a Muslim. He had invested 10 year of his life in this business. The money and efforts of hardworking Arif had now been reduced to ashes. The organization was aghast at his immense financial loss. Miles2Smile offered him an assistance of two lakh rupees to subdue his huge financial loss.



'The Only Hope'

On April 11, Amina was yet to absorb the shock of communal violence happened a day ago only. She was crestfallen to see the people living in harmony lobbying tirades and attacking each other in the name of communal politics. But the day after violence, bulldozer injustice tore down her mental peace. The building owned by her, which also housed a small bakery, was reduced into rubble by the state administration. Her bakery was the only source of livelihood for her family members and the bakery workers .

Disconcerting as she was, along with her family members; they were glaring at hunger ridden days ahead. With administration, saddled with delivering justice, played villain and plummeted their life to outright penury. When Miles2smile visited her she was inconsolable and sobbing profusely. The fate befallen on her was writ large on her face.

Still gathering her nerves, she was not ready to give up. After navigating through various quagmires of life she was determined to fight back. She was in dire straits as no hope was seen on the horizon. She just wanted the seed money to rebuild her life and was confident of fructifying her dreams. With the 5 lakhs provided by Miles2Smile, she was able to move forward with staggering legs and a galloping mind, personifying a heroic figure. Amina flew like phoenix from ashes. She was successful in getting her bakery completely reconstructed and is now providing employment to many.





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

<https://youtu.be/QBkoCxOqw3I>



THE SMILE COUNTER



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1

Smile Project

3580

(S) miles Covered

600

Smile Hours

310

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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