

01/09/03

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

With request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

By Jean Lambert and Reinhold Messner on behalf of the GREEN/EFA Group

On India

65-379/03

The European Parliament,

A. Whereas on August 25 2003, two car bombs exploded in the centre of Mumbai killing 52 people and injuring 178

B. Whereas this bomb attack recalls the even more deadly serial explosions of 1993 which killed more than 250 people and injured more than 700 being at the time attributed to Muslim organisations seeking to avenge the destruction by Hindu extremists of the historical Babri mosque in Ayodhya they claimed had been built on the birthplace of the Hindu god-king Rama

C. Whereas due to this conflict, India witnessed the bloody pogroms of Gujarat last year, in which an estimated over 2000 people - mostly Muslims - were killed by Hindu mobs, thousands more injured and over one hundred thousand displaced

D. Whereas many observers assume that there is a link between the recent Mumbai bomb attacks and the publication by India's chief archaeological body of the finding on Ayodhya only a few hours earlier, claiming to have evidence for an 11th century Hindu temple beneath the 16th century mosque and thus supporting Hindu claims for a Hindu shrine in place of the mosque

E. Whereas the attack took place two days before Prime Minister Vajpayee's very mediated trip to Jammu and Kashmir together with many members of his cabinet

F. Whereas the Indian government is accusing the Muslim extremist group Lashkar-i-Toiba, a Pakistan-based militant group, to have committed the 25 August massacre, while Pakistan's government deplored the blasts and rejected any link to the attacks

G. Whereas so far no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks and no clear evidence has been established for any accused

1. Strongly condemns the bomb attacks of Mumbai which are only bound to increase already existing tensions between the Hindu and Muslim communities in Maharashtra and elsewhere, and expresses its condolences to the victims and their families

2. Expresses its concern over the extremist pro-Hindu propaganda perpetrated by the Shiv Sena Party and its leader Dal Thackeray, ruling the state of Maharashtra in coalition with the governing Bharatiya Janata Dal and calls for a stronger enforcement of the Indian Penal Code which provides for punishment against inflammatory speeches and writing,

3. Calls on the Indian Government to comply with international human rights and Indian constitutional law and end impunity for orchestrated violence against Indian minorities, and to bring notably in Gujarat those to justice who have instigated the violence or who have



collaborated, supports in this context the recommendations of the Indian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

4. Urges the Indian Government to establish an independent commission of inquiry to investigate state and police participation in the violence in Gujarat and to develop a plan of action to meet the ever growing concerns about increasing Hindu-Muslim tension which poses a serious threat to India's socio-economic development

9. instructs its President to transmit this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the UN and the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the Governments of India, Maharashtra and Gujarat.