



The Delhi Riots in Photos: Fake News, Real Blood

Understanding the 2020 Delhi anti-Muslim pogrom in Modi's censored India, in photos.

Erin Blair

March 09, 2020



GIFT STORY FOR FREE



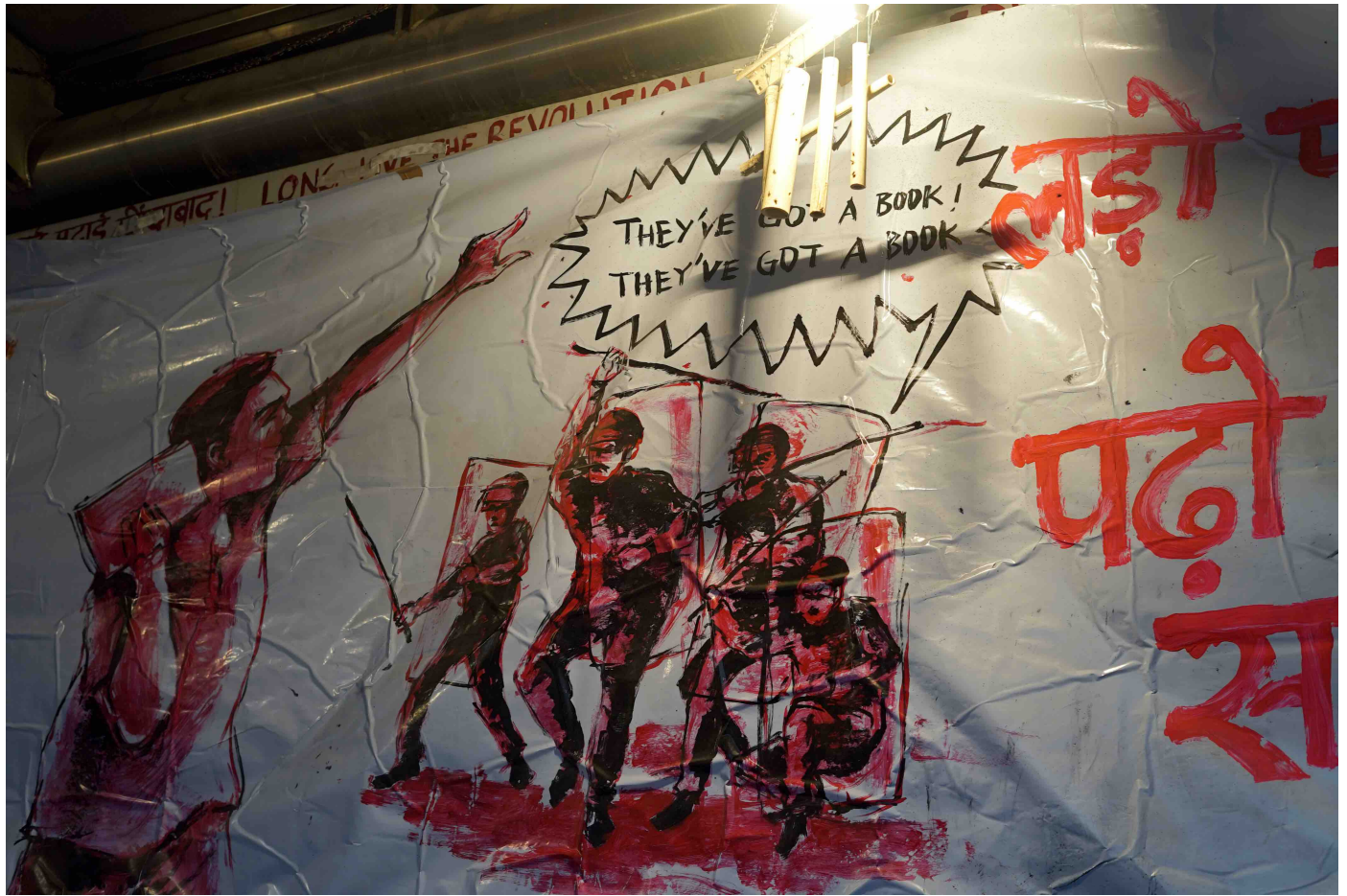
Our reporter went to New Delhi to see firsthand the aftermath of the anti-Muslim pogrom in Delhi during the last week in February. This is what she saw.



For two months, women in the Shaheen Bagh neighborhood of Delhi have blocked a road to protest to the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act, passed in December 2019. Right-wing news sources have labeled them as traitors and secret agents of Pakistan.



A man hold up his baby for the camera at the protest of Shaheen Bagh. Member of Parliament (MP) Pravesh Verma told voters during the 2020 Delhi Legislative Election that if they didn't vote BJP, the people at Shaheen Bagh would "enter your house, rape your sisters and daughters and kill them."



A poster of the student protest at Jamia Millia Islamia university. On December 15, 2019 police entered Jamia Millia Islamia and Jawaharlal Nehru University and assaulted peaceful protestors, as well as bystanders.



A photograph displayed at the protest site of Jamia Millia Islamia university. Some members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) believe Muslim Indians should have left for Pakistan during Partition.





Shah Budin stands in what was once his key-making shop. Seven days after the end of the Delhi riots, his shop is still smoking.



Keys scattered in a looted shop.



A Congress flag lies among the rubble of what was once a Muslim rickshaw shop. For years, India's Congress Party protected the rights of minorities, relying on them as a vote bank. One of its historic members, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, staunchly believed in secularism.



A resident of Gokalpuri describes how mobs descended upon his shop, looting everything inside. Small media outlets are some of the only people reporting these stories as mainstream media is increasingly under pressure by the Bharatiya Janata Party.



“The women, especially, are scared,” said Amir Sheikh, a resident of Gokalpuri, in Delhi’s northeast. While journalists collect information about the riots, many young women peer out of the houses, too afraid to come outside.



“The Indian media are liars and the police are terrorists,” said Muhammad Qasim, age 33. Seven days before, goons had entered his neighborhood, shooting a few of his neighbors and murdering one in cold blood. The police, he said, did not help.



A young girl watches while her family describes the murder of her relative to journalists.



A woman recounts the murder of her son by gangs to a journalist from an online news publication.



Samsad Idrishi was shot in the chest by goons during the riots that coursed through his neighborhood. When asked if he's been sharing his experiences on social media, he shook his head no, saying he's afraid of the police.



The burnt edifice of the Jannati Masjid. The desecration of mosques was reported on social media, only to confront a barrage of fake news.



Yakub Pathan, age 24, wept as he gathered loose pages from the Quran inside his desecrated mosque. Pathan is a barber, but his shop was burned down a week ago in the Delhi riots.



The body of a person killed during the Delhi riots. As of Friday, March 6, his murder had yet to be reported by the Indian press.



A man with a bullet still lodged in his face. After being shot, he was taken to the hospital, only to have his ambulance attacked by mobs.

Erin Blair is a political reporter living in Delhi.

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