

Jammu Massacre of Nov. 1947 remains one of darkest, yet largely forgotten, episodes in the history of Jammu & Kashmir State:



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Raja Muzaffar: Dallas (USA):

DALLAS (United States): Nov. 5: On November 6, 1947, a systematic wave of ethnic cleansing resulted in the massacre of an estimated 237,000 Muslims in the Jammu province, drastically altering its demographic fabric. DALLAS (United States): Nov. 5: On November 6, 1947, a systematic wave of ethnic cleansing resulted in the massacre of an estimated 237,000 Muslims in the Jammu province, drastically altering its demographic fabric and reducing the Muslim population to a minority in their own homeland.

The scale of this atrocity was horrifying. According to a 1948 report in *The Times*, London, and corroborated by many historians, hundreds of thousands of Muslims were brutally killed in a coordinated campaign involving the Maharaja Hari Singh's forces, Hindu extremist groups like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), and armed Sikh refugees. Large-scale killings occurred in districts including Udhampur, Chenani, Ramnagar, Reasi, and Bhandarwah. The perpetrators not only carried out massacres but also forcibly displaced surviving Muslims, many of whom were sent to Pakistan under the guise of safe passage only to face ambushes along the way.

The late Kashmiri journalist Ved Bhasin, an eyewitness to the events, exposed the organized nature of these killings. Bhasin revealed the role of RSS training camps where militants were weaponized and indoctrinated against Muslims. He highlighted the troubling complicity of the Maharaja's administration in facilitating and arming the communal mobs, even during curfews imposed explicitly to restrict Muslim movement. Attempts by Bhasin and fellow activists to warn the Maharaja's prime minister about the massacre were dismissed coldly, underscoring state endorsement of the violence.

This brutal campaign not only decimated Muslim populations but led to a profound demographic shift. Anuradha Bhasin, Ved Bhasin's daughter, confirmed that many Muslim-majority villages in Jammu district became exclusively Hindu or Sikh after the 1947 massacre. Today, Muslims constitute only about 10 percent of Jammu's population.

The Jammu Massacre of 1947 stands as a grim reminder of communal hatred and state-sponsored ethnic cleansing. Its denial and historical obscurity continue to shape the region's politics. As tensions endure, remembering this genocide is essential to seek justice and prevent such atrocities in the future.

This article honors the memory of those lost and the courageous witness of Ved Bhasin, calling for acknowledgment of this tragic chapter in the pursuit of peace and justice in Jammu and Kashmir.

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