

PRESS RELEASE

Sept. 19, 2016

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, All India Congress Committee, has issued the following statement to the press today:-

Indian National Congress salutes the sacrifice of 17 brave soldiers, who were martyred in the cowardly Uri Attack in J&K yesterday. This is an attack on our National conscience and perpetrators should be brought to book at the earliest.

Prior to 2014 elections, Shri Narendra Modi consistently counseled Congress Government to 'stop writing love letters to Pakistan'. Modi ji used the oft quoted rhetoric of '56 inches chest' as also 'bringing 10 heads back in exchange of one', besides asking the government to 'answer Pakistan in the language they understand'.

Since becoming Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has indulged in 'Saree-Shawl' diplomacy to impromptu visits to Pakistan to attend wedding celebrations and birthday parties along with Shri Nawaz Sharif. Modi Government's Pakistan policy is based on wholesale confusion rather than pragmatic and decisive cohesion. Net effect has been that a renegade pariah nation like Pakistan that protects global terror and which stood isolated amongst International community on account of a sustained policy of Congress-led UPA Government, is attempting to reproject itself as a player for regional stability in South-East Asia. Prime Minister Modi is singularly responsible for this complete disarray of foreign policy.

To top it, India's borders as also National security have been under siege for last two years. There have been over 900 border ceasefire violations by Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir. India has borne the burnt of unchecked terrorist attacks coming from Pakistan in Udhampur, Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Pampore leading to heavy casualties of Army and police, including senior most officers. Despite grave provocation and loss of nearly a dozen soldiers in the terrorist attack on Pathankot Airbase, Modi government invited a Pakistani investigating team to Pathankot headed by the dreaded ISI. Not only did Pakistan brashly refuse a bilateral visit of Indian investigating team, it shockingly accused India of engineering the Pathankot Airbase attack and killing its own soldiers.

Modi government appears to have learnt no lessons which finally resulted in the cowardly Uri attack leading to martyrdom of 17 soldiers and grievous injuries to over 28 Army men. Uri terrorist attack, sponsored – propagated – abetted by Pakistan, is the result of failure of political leadership of Modi government. Reports clearly point towards a massive intelligence and operational failure. Modi government needs to answer as to why no preventive measures were taken to pre-empt the attack if there was credible information available from different agencies and security experts, more so considering the vulnerability of the Uri Brigade headquarters and its proximity to Line of Control? Why were soldiers housed in tents when two military buildings were lying vacant, which led to casualties? Who leaked the information regarding troop movement and changeover i.e. the fact that 10-Dogra Regiment was in the process of making space for 6-Bihar Regiment? Is it not a clear cut failure of command and control structure in the Modi government? Will Prime Minister show courage of conviction and fixing responsibility and accountability for this complete failure, particularly that of his Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parriker?

On behalf of people of India, we call upon Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to traverse the distance from 'rhetoric' to 'reality', 'projection of self' to 'protection of National interest'. Uri terror attack demands a firm and appropriate response from Indian Government. Modi Government should also move International community for imposing comprehensive sanctions on Pakistan as a State that harbours global terror network and uses 'terrorism' as an instrument of State policy.