

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence

Member of Consultative Committee on Finance

Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps

Co-Chairman, District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee, Bengaluru Urban District

18 July 2017

Seeking your support to pass Resolution on 28 July 2017

Dear Colleague,

In September 2016, I had written to you for support on my Private Member's Bill – "The Declaration of Countries as Sponsor of Terrorism Bill, 2016", and also to support a resolution calling out Pakistan for what it is – a State sponsor of Terrorism.

Regrettably, the resolution didn't make it through the Ballot system of Parliament but I could introduce my Bill on 18 November 2016.

The objective of the Bill was to start a debate in the house - because since 1994 when the unanimous resolution against Pakistan was passed by both houses of Parliament - very little has been said about Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism and its role in the claiming of thousands and countless of innocent lives in India.

Many of you participated in the discussion on my Bill on 03 February 2017 and 10 March 2017 and for that, I thank you once again. I withdrew the Bill after being assured on the floor of the house by Minister of State for Home, that no legislation was required and the Government had adequate executive powers.

Now, I am writing to you as I make my second attempt to move a resolution on 28 July 2017 to Declare Pakistan a Terror State, and for this, I seek your support.

I am doing this because I do believe it is time for us to not only change the narrative of our dealing with Pakistan but also to stand together and speak in one voice.

The most recent terrorist attack in which seven innocent Amarnath Yatra pilgrims — six of them women — were massacred and 19 others injured was one more incident in a series of incidents we have seen and suffered and those were lives in a series of lives that we have lost over many decades. And this was no first. Terrorists have targeted Amarnath pilgrims over the years - 2000, 2001 and 2002 - killing fifty-four innocent lives and injuring at least 105 people.



For decades, India and other countries in the region have been subjected to numerous terror attacks from organisations and individuals based in and with the support of elements in Pakistan. The 2001 attack on our Parliament, the 2002 Kaluchak massacre, 26/11 attack in Mumbai, Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Uri, Nagrota...the list is endless, we all know that.

We remain the biggest victims of Pakistan's nefarious terror activities, yet we have always looked onto other nations to declare them a terror state, there is this dichotomy where we continue business as usual with Pakistan, and not call them a terror state. And so, these dastardly attacks continue because we have shown repeatedly that despite the gravest provocation, we do not respond.

The 1994 resolution passed by Parliament noted with "deep concern Pakistan's role in imparting training to the terrorists in camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, the supply of weapons and funds, assistance in infiltration of trained militants, including foreign mercenaries into Jammu and Kashmir with the avowed purpose of creating disorder, disharmony and subversion" and reiterated that "the militants trained in Pakistan are indulging in murder, loot and other heinous crimes against the people, taking them hostage and creating an atmosphere of terror;"

I am sure it pains and frustrates you just as it does me and millions of our countrymen - that it has been over two decades since – 23 years to be precise - and we have not said a word. We have not come together in the Parliament as representatives of the people of India to take a stand on this rogue neighbour who continues with its dogged doctrine of "bleeding India through a thousand cuts". It is obvious that Indians expect their MPs and Parliament to do more than just condemn Pakistan.

Most of us have condemned the Amarnath Yatra attack and expressed our condolences, but I feel now, we must move on from mere expressions and take decisive steps to safeguard the lives of our people and the sovereignty of our Nation.

Therefore, today, I urge each one of you in Parliament that we must, at this moment, set our differences aside and resolve in a unanimous voice that we will not let Pakistan continue with its designs and be a source of terror and violence to our Democracy, the region and the world.

I look forward to your presence and support on 28th July in passing this resolution and do right by the people and Nation who we represent.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR