

Communal Custodial killing: A case study of Hashimpura in light of Vibhuti Narain Rai's Hashimpura 22 May.

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Abstract

Hashimpura is known for India's biggest custodial killing. People, especially, from minority communities have been killed before and after Hashimpura. But Hashimpura remains a glaring scar on the relationship of police administration with minorities. Vibhuti Narain Rai is known for his 'Secular', detached and keenly observant writing. His first book, a novel in Hindi 'Shaher Mein Curfew' deals with the nature of violence and the psychology of crowd and community. This research paper intends to study the custodial killing of Hashimpura as it has reached through media in last thirty five years. But every argument is supported by Rai's book Hashimpura 22 May.

Keywords - custodial killing, minority, laathicharge, massacre.

The incidence of custodial killing of Hashimpura shook the faith of minority community in state police and the protracted criminal justice process and the apathy of the political class added to the anxiety. Yet thirty-five years later when zulfikar's mobile one of the survive number was dialed up, 'chake de ' was his ringtone.

It was a hot may afternoon and the last Friday of Ramzan in 1987 when, after attending prayes at the local mosque, the men of Hashimpura retired to their homes on this hot evening of may 22, the atmosphere outside was tense, following weeks of communal clashes in Meerut in the aftermath of the opening of the locks of the Babri Masjid. Army, Police and Provincial Armed constabulary launched an intense search drive of allegedly to missing rifles which they claimed had been looted by 'anti-social elements'. Different narratives of the days leading up to the massacre have come up yet things are inconducive to this day.

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