

Hasrat Mohani and Second Imprisonment: A Life of Continues Political Struggle

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Abstract

Biographers of Hasrat Mohani generally believe that he was arrested on May 1916. But it is not correct. Hasrat Mohani wrote a letter to his spiritual guide. We come across a letter of Begum Hasrat Mohani which was written to Maulana Abdul Bari Firangi Mahli on 14th April, 1916. In this letter, she described the story of pain and suffering of Maulana in jail. She said that house and the shop were searched by police. But there was no question of anything being found. She wrote that they took a lot of papers from the house. She felt grief about her husband's arrest and the next step of the police. She also disclosed her husband's weak financial condition. She informed her spiritual chief, Abdul Bari Firangi Mahli, about the runner that this arrest of her husband was on hint of Dr. Ziauddin because he had vehemently criticized the latter's pro-British attitude in the meeting of the proposed Muslim University Foundation Committee held on 10th April, 1916 in Lucknow¹. It therefore, appears that Hasrat was arrested second time between 10th and 14th April, 1916. This papers is discussing this subject.

The confidential report from Nainital (the summer capital of the United Province) to the W. Wheeler, Secretary to the Government of India, reveals that his second arrest took place on 13th April, 1916. The report runs : (1) Hasrat Mohani, a big Zamindar and trustee of the M.A.O. College, visited the Collector of Aligarh, and told him that on March 31st, Fazlul Hasan came to his house and asked for money .He said that Sir Fazallbhoy Currimbhoy had given him Rs 2000/ and somebody else Rs 600/. He added that he wished to close his cloth and book business and go to Kabul .In this connection he produced a packet of papers and showed the Honorary Magistrate a letter from Barkatullah, addressed from Kabul and a photo of a *fatwa* of the *Shaikh-ul Islam*. The *fatwa* drew the attention of the state about

¹ Ateeq Siddiqui (ed.), *Begum Hasrat Mohani Aur Unke Khutut*, New Delhi, Maktaba Jamia Limited, 1981, pp. 54-55