



The Zero Tolerance Policy of Narendra Modi

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ABSTRACT

A zero-tolerance policy is one which imposes a punishment for every infraction of a stated rule. Zero-tolerance policies forbid people in positions of authority from exercising discretion or changing punishments to fit the circumstances subjectively; they are required to impose a pre-determined punishment regardless of individual culpability, extenuating circumstances, or history. This pre-determined punishment, whether mild or severe, is always meted out. Zero-tolerance policies are studied in criminology and are common in formal and informal policing systems around the world. The policies also appear in informal situations where there may be sexual harassment or Internet misuse in educational and workplace environments. In 2014, the mass incarceration in the United States based upon minor offenses has resulted in an outcry on the use of zero tolerance in schools and communities. Little evidence supports the claimed effectiveness of zero-tolerance policies. One underlying problem is that there are a great many reasons why people hesitate to intervene, or to report behavior they find to be unacceptable or unlawful. Zero-tolerance policies address, at best, only a few of these reasons. In India the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promoted the zero tolerance policy against various negative issues.

Keywords: Zero Tolerance Policy, Narendra Modi, Politics, Issues, India, Environment, Punishment

1. INTRODUCTION

Addressing the 'Garib Kalyan Sammelan' rally in Shimla to mark eight years of his government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said corruption was viewed as an essential part of government before 2014. India saw a sea change in the last eight years due to the BJP-led dispensation's zero-tolerance towards graft. Modi said, "Now our borders are more secure than they were before 2014." "We have transferred over Rs 22 lakh crore to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of various schemes through direct benefit transfer," the prime minister said. He claimed that poverty was on the decline in the country and even the international agencies were admitting it. "I do not consider myself prime minister. Rather, I consider myself as 'pradhan sevak' and a

member of the family of 130-crore Indians and my life is for them," Prime Minister Modi told the rally. "He emphasised four aspects that countries in the region would need to focus on, in the context of Afghanistan: [1] the need for an inclusive government; a zero-tolerance stance about Afghan territory being used by terrorist groups; a strategy to counter trafficking of drugs and arms from Afghanistan; and addressing the increasingly critical humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Prime Minister also expressed the hope that the Regional Security Dialogue would work to revive Central Asia's traditions of moderation and progressive culture, and counter extremist tendencies," the PMO said. Message of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on the "International Day Against Drug

Abuse and Illegal Trafficking"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has adopted a policy of zero tolerance against drugs. I convey my best wishes to all Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) personnel, NGOs and volunteers involved in fulfilling the resolve of Shri Modi's 'Drugs free India'.In the 75th year of Independence, we have decided that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for a 'Drugs Free India' has to be made into a strong resolve in this period of Amrit Kal.The problem of drug addiction is also a big challenge for national security, which can be stopped and eliminated only with coordination of all.Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is working extensively for the complete eradication of drug trafficking and under his leadership, we have coordinated and institutionalized this fight.A "Narco Coordination Mechanism"[2] has been established under the aegis of "Narcotics Control Bureau" of the Ministry of Home Affairs, whose objective is to establish coordination between all agencies, so that we can get complete success in curbing drug smuggling.NCB is playing an active role in this war against drugs at the national level, due to which we are seeing successful results, from 2014 to 2022, the value of seized drugs is about 25 times more in the last 8 years as compared to the previous 8 years.Drug abuse, not only makes society hollow, money earned from drugs smuggling is also a big threat to national security.I am sure that the collective effort of NCB and all stakeholders will achieve the desired success, let us all contribute our bit in fulfilling the resolve of a 'Drugs free India' of Shri Modi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has a policy of "zero-tolerance" towards terrorism which he termed as the biggest hurdle on the way of development. He also said that India has been a victim of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism since long, while speaking at the National Security Guard (NSG) 35th Raising Day celebrations here."Terrorism is a curse for society and is the biggest hurdle in the way of development. Our country has suffered the plight of terrorism more than any other country in world. Under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi we are committed towards zero-tolerance policy on terrorism.[3] Today, I am assured of our security because of NSG," Shah said."Counter-terrorism

operations, counter hijack operations, providing proximate security, bomb disposable squad, providing protective cover in national and international events and other functions. I am quite confident that our country is safe from any terrorist attack with NSG to protect us," said Shah.He said that abrogation of Article 370 would prove to be a milestone in eradicating terrorism."In today's era when there is no traditional war, India is affected with terrorism sponsored by Pakistan since years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a big step by Abrogation article 370 from Kashmir to make nation terrorism free and to save Kashmir. I believe, the step will help to maintain peace in the state," said Shah. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to rededicate themselves to abolish corruption from all walks of life. He asked the officials to strengthen new India's policy of zero tolerance against corruption. Addressing a joint meeting of the CBI and CVC, taking place at Gujarat's Kevadia through a video message, Modi said corruption takes away the rights of people and hinders the pursuit of justice for all, the country's progress and affects the collective power of the country."In the last six-seven years, the government has succeeded in instilling the confidence that it is possible to curb corruption. Today there is political will to attack corruption and continuous improvement is being carried out at the administrative level," he added.[4]

2. DISCUSSION

India's new government has promised "zero tolerance" for violence against women, amid widespread public anger following rape .

President Pranab Mukherjee made the pledge in a speech to parliament that laid out the rightwing government's agenda following a landslide election victory for the Bharatiya Janata party, led by Narendra Modi. Mukherjee also announced a range of other measures to tackle the recent surge of sexual violence against women in India including reforms of the country's slow, corrupt and inefficient criminal justice system."The government will have a policy of zero tolerance for violence against women, and will strengthen the criminal justice system for its effective implementation," the president told a joint sitting of parliament. Modi's government also promised to

provide toilets in every home – a measure experts say would significantly improve women's safety. Almost half of India's 1.25 billion people currently defecate in the open. For reasons of modesty, women do not use the fields for toilets until it is dark, making them vulnerable to assault. The president said the government was also committed to reserving 33% of seats in parliament and state assemblies for women, reaffirming a pledge made by previous national governments. He also promised that the government would clean the heavily polluted Ganges river and build infrastructure in India's overcrowded cities. Most estimates put the cost of constructing functioning sewage, transport and similar facilities in all of India's urban centres at hundreds of billions of dollars.[5]

Homebuyers have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to send a clear message to the real estate industry, that the government will have a "zero tolerance policy" towards malpractices or delay in project execution. Stating that around five lakh homebuyers are stuck with incomplete housing projects, mostly due to diversion of funds by builders, homebuyers have also urged the prime minister to order a forensic audit for all projects pending for over three years. Alleging that this is a "large scale organized cheating committed by promoters of real estate projects with all other constituents being partner in their crime," homebuyers have appealed PM Modi to clean-up the sector off all bad elements.[6] A "clear message" needs to be sent out "to (the) real estate industry that from here-on, your government will have zero tolerance policy towards any kind of malpractice or even delay in execution as prevailing in the real estate sector," homebuyers said in the letter. The Forum for People's Collective Efforts (FPCE) has also demanded that a task force should be created under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA) to identify stuck housing projects and a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) should be nominated to complete these homes. [7] The forum has proposed that this task force should have representations from homebuyers, state governments, financial institutions and industry experts (other than builders) to ensure deliveries of delayed projects, starting with those nearing completion. It should be ensured that no builder is a part of this body "since the entire exercise will be primarily against their misdeeds and hence they may use their influence to derail the

whole process," the letter says. The homebuyers have written to the prime minister in the backdrop of the recent order by the Supreme Court of India (SC) in the Amrapali case. The apex court had observed that "it is shocking and surprising that so many projects have remained incomplete. Several lakhs of home buyers have been cheated. As if there is no machinery of law left to take care of such situation and no fear left with the promoters/builders that such acts are not perceivable in a civilised society."

In the same order, the top court had directed the Centre and the state governments to take appropriate steps in a time-bound manner to ensure that buyers are provided houses. "The sheer magnitude and duration of this perpetual crime also raises equally serious concern of impression amongst the public that governance has failed in our country especially with regard to builders since they are getting away unscathed with heinous crime they have committed continuously," homebuyers have said in the letter. "This also raises questions on the justice delivery mechanism which in case of builders appears to be only on paper thereby strongly suggesting and creating impression that India has turned into a banana republic," the homebuyers' letter says. Copies of this letter have been sent to the Housing and Urban Affairs Minister and all Chief Ministers. "As head of the Government, and also being most popular leader who has come back with huge majority, it is incumbent upon you to rise up to the expectations of not only the apex court but also to the millions of stuck homebuyers by taking effective steps to resolve the present issue and also by ensuring that in future such situation doesn't arise," homebuyers have appealed to the prime minister.[8]

3. RESULTS

The Khalistan issue came up during the India-UK summit 2022. PM Boris Johnson said that the UK was sensitive to India's concerns, and promised 'zero tolerance'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict with his British counterpart Boris Johnson and conveyed strong advocacy for peaceful resolution of the situation and direct dialogue between the two parties, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said on Friday. Briefing reporters on talks between Modi and

Johnson, Shringla said that during the talks there was no pressure applied from the British side regarding sanctions on Russia and Johnson shared his views on the Ukraine issue.

Prime Minister Modi put forward India's perspective on the Ukraine issue and asserted that "we are on the side of peace", want that there should be dialogue and diplomacy, and the conflict should be resolved soon, he said. "The two leaders also discussed the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Prime Minister expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation and mounting humanitarian crisis. Prime Minister (Modi) reiterated his call for immediate cessation of violence and conveyed strong advocacy for peaceful resolution of the situation, and direct dialogue between the two parties," Shringla said.

Some critics have argued that zero-tolerance policing violates the Law Enforcement Code of Conduct passed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police: "The fundamental duties of a police officer include serving the community, safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, keeping the peace and ensuring the rights of all to liberty, equality and justice" The code requires that police behave in a courteous and fair manner, treat all citizens in a respectable and decent manner, and never use unnecessary force. Zero-tolerance policing runs counter to community policing and logical crime prevention efforts. To whatever degree street sweeps are viewed by citizens as brutal, suspect, militaristic, or the biased efforts of "outsiders," citizens will be discouraged from taking active roles in community building activities and crime prevention initiatives in conjunction with the police. Perhaps this is why the communities that most need neighborhood watch programs are least likely to be populated by residents who take active roles in them.[9]

Critics say that zero-tolerance policing fails because it destroys several important requisites for successful community policing: police accountability, openness to the public, and community cooperation. Zero tolerance violates principles of health and human services and standards for the education and healthy growth of children, families and communities. Even traditional community service providers in the 1970s aimed for "services for all" (such as zero reject), instead of 100% societal exclusion (zero tolerance). Public

administration and disability has supported principles that include education, employment, housing, transportation, recreation, and political participation in the community. Which zero-tolerance groups claim are not a right in the US. Opponents of zero tolerance believe that such a policy neglects investigation on a case-by-case basis and may lead to unreasonably harsh penalties for crimes that may not warrant such penalties in reality. Another criticism of zero-tolerance policies is that it gives officers and the legal system little discretion in dealing with offenders. Zero-tolerance policies may prohibit their enforcers from making the punishment fit the crime.

Fixed sentencing guidelines may incite offenders to commit more serious crimes because they know their punishment will be the same no matter the degree of their actions. That phenomenon of human nature is described in an adage that dates back to at least the 17th century, "might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb". Until 1820, the English law prescribed hanging for stealing anything worth more than one shilling, whether it was a low-value lamb or a whole flock of sheep. In the kids for cash scandal, Judge Mark Ciavarella, who promoted a platform of zero tolerance, received kickbacks for constructing a private prison that housed juvenile offenders and then proceeded to fill the prison by sentencing children to extended stays in juvenile detention for offenses as minimal as mocking a principal on Myspace, scuffles in hallways, trespassing in a vacant building, and shoplifting DVDs from Walmart. Critics of zero-tolerance policies argue that harsh punishments for minor offences are normalized. The documentary Kids for Cash interviews experts on adolescent behaviour who argue that the zero-tolerance model has become a dominant approach to policing juvenile offences after the Columbine shooting. Recently, argumentation theorists (especially Sheldon Wein) have suggested that, frequently, when people advocate adopting a zero tolerance policy, they commit what he has called the "zero tolerance fallacy". Subsequently, Wein has proposed standards which arguments for zero tolerance policies must meet in order to avoid such fallacious inferences.

4. CONCLUSION

Hence the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attained zero tolerance policy for various issues in India. This

has provided security and environmental peace in the country.[9]

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they do not have any conflict of interest.

REFERENCES

- [1] Narendra Modi was born Narendrabhai Damodardas Modi on 17 September 1950. He uses Damodardas as his middle name—Gujaratis have a tradition of using the names of their fathers as their middle names—but he is widely known as Narendra Modi. (Marino 2014, pp. 4–5)
- [2] Sources stating that RSS had a deep impact on the political hierarchy of the BJP, specially in the case of Narendra Modi.
- [3] Sources describing Modi's administration as complicit in the 2002 violence.
- [4] In 2012, a court stated that investigations had found no evidence against Modi.
- [5] Sources stating that Modi has failed to improve human development indices in Gujarat.
- [6] Sources describing that India has experienced a backslide in democracy:
- [7] Sources discussing the controversy surrounding Modi.
- [8] The exact number of people killed in the train burning is variously reported. For example, the BBC says it was 59, while The Guardian put the figure at 60.
- [9] The Narendra Modi led government completed two years in power in May 2016 and the prime minister has made his mark on both the domestic and foreign policy fronts