INSTITUTIONALISATION OF A FAULT LINE

A case study
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Introduction

- Several Dalit organizations on Dalit and caste lines have mushroomed on US soil in the last few years.
- Some of the key organizations that have emerged into the mainstream are Equality Labs and OFMI.
- The commonality between them rose to the mainstream with the help of Jamaat groups.
- OFMI was shut down after Disinfo Lab exposed it in 2021. But Equality Labs continued to work with Pak-backed Jamaat subsidiaries.

But how did this Dalit advocacy movement start on foreign soil?

- In the late 1990s, an obscure-sounding organization was registered by the Church-going White faces in the US with the name Dalitstan.
- The motive of Dalitstan ostensibly was to advocate for Dalits and ‘black’ untouchables in India. However, in the garb of these issues, it had a bigger agenda i.e., promoting the ideas of breaking India.
- Dalitstan was being promoted in India through various websites.
- A key website promoting Dalitstan was IndianMuslims.info, whose founder Kashif Ul Huda has been a part of an intricate network of the US Jamaat fronts such as IAMC and ICNA, and is also in a close tandem with yet Jamaat-backed Equality Lab, which is being projected as the key front for running the Dalit/ Caste discourse.
- Kashif Ul Huda runs a news portal- Two Circles.net which was earlier registered in India, but later shifted to the US after a few years.
- TCN website covers news/ stories related to the marginalized sections of India, including Muslims, Dalits, and Adivasis.
- However, it was found to be practicing selective journalism and only covered cases that met the interests of its backers.
- Now these groups have been able to hijack the Dalit line narrative & conveniently tarnishing India’s image through media reporting, by penetrating campaigns and even by targeting companies abroad.
- Only that they have been an integral part of the same nexus that was put into play back in 1990s-2000s and now operating via different fronts and on designated Indian fault lines including Caste line.
- Both Kashif and Equality Labs’ founder Thenmozhi Soundarajan, who is duly backed by Pak-Jamaat fronts have been active since early 2000s. Just that, they were running different fronts back then and now they have emerged as front runners through their respective fronts.
Part I: The Gravest Indian fault-line: Caste
Chapter 1 - Equality Labs

In June 2022, one of the Silicon Valley giants Google Inc was in mid of a controversy after an event on Caste discrimination was called off. The speaker who was supposed to speak at the event, alleged Google to be a Caste bias company.  
1 Subsequently, a senior manager at the company resigned to protest against the cancellation of the event. The entire development of events led to Google getting called diversity and equity intolerant company.  
2 3 4

In the second instance, another Silicon Valley giant, Apple August 2022 became one of the first tech companies, to ban caste discrimination in the company. This led other companies such as IBM to follow suit to implement the new law against caste discrimination. 5

What is the buzz all about?

Such incidents where the US Tech giants have been dragged into controversies have surfaced in recent times. However, the trigger of such events goes back to 2020, when a lawsuit was filed against an IT firm Cisco Systems Inc., on the grounds of Caste discrimination against one of its American-Indian employees.6

The key entity that happens to be common behind all these events is US-based Equality Labs. As instantiated in our report “The Longest War- Operation Tupac”, on the Caste Faultline in the US. 7 Equality Labs was formed in 2016 as an Ambedkarite South Asian power-building organization in the US with the motive too is to “center the leadership of South Asian minority groups in the ongoing redefinition of South Asian identity in the United States, across the Diaspora, and

1 https://www.thequint.com/us-nri-news/dalit-scholar-thenmozhi-soundararajan-fighting-google-on-caste-interview#read-more
2 https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/google-cancelled-dalit-activist-talk-caste-after-pressure-employees-164630
3 https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/22050236-tanuja-gupta-goodbye-letter?responsive=1&title=0
4 https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2022/06/02/google-caste-equality-labs-tanuja-gupta/
in our home countries, from India to Tamil Eelam, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet, and Pakistan.”

Equality Labs was founded by a Dalit techie, artist, and activist Thenmozhi Soundararajan, born and brought up in the US, which claims to be a progressive organization to combat caste discrimination. Some of Names mentioned in the acknowledgment section of the EL report were of Thenmozhi’s family members including father- Dr. T.S.S Rajan, Mother- Thilakvathy Soundarajan, and sister- Theeba Soundarajan.

Acknowledgments

Equality Labs would like to thank our co-sponsoring organizations including the Dalit American Coalition, Ambachts: Association of North America, Friends for India’s Education, Boston Study Group, Ambachts International Mission, International Campaign for D&S Humans Rights, all of the U.S. E-Guru Revistoside gaukwas, Dalit American Women’s Association, and Ambassador International Center.

We are thankful to all the organizations in the diaspora who have helped us to disseminate the survey. This includes several South Asian religious institutions and community-based organizations such as South Asian Americans Leading Together, the Alliance for Justice and Accountability, the Bangladesh Historical Project, South Asians for Reconciliation, and the South Asia Solidarity Initiative, Association for India’s Development, Davis Waring Up and Moving, and Alliance of South Asians Taking Action.

We are also grateful to the many academics, community leaders, religious leaders, and organizations who helped to design, review, sharpen the analyses, and vet the conclusions made in this survey. In particular we want to thank Professors: Hema Bho, Dr. Chiranjilal Kamat, Dr. Connell Werle, Lani Rangel, Jeevan Srinivas, Sunita Nauria, Benjamin Kelle, Suchanenita Gang, Surya Bagha, Telugu Prevalence in the U.S., and others. We are also thankful to the many individuals who have endorsed this survey. A full list can be found at EqualityLabs.org.

Thenmozhi’s father, Thalavaipalayam Soundarajan is a doctor, who shifted to the US in the 1970s after graduating from Madras Medical College. He pursued Internal Medicine at the University of California in 1973-74 and later on settled in the US.1 In his career as a medical practitioner, Dr. TSS Rajan also got into several controversies and legal battles owing to his medical incompetency.10 11 12 While her mother Dr. Thilakavathy Soundarajan is a medical practitioner who graduated from Coimbatore Medical College in 1975 before shifting to the US.13 She earned her US Doctorate in June 2000.14 Her parents got divorced in 1998 when she was 12 years old.15 Thenmozhi’s marriage also couldn’t sustain. Thenmozhi was married to an Electrical Engineer Cyril Drame who works at UC Berkeley.16 Their marriage didn’t last as on February 27, 2009, Cyril filed a lawsuit against Thenmozhi following their divorce however the case is still pending.17

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9 https://www.doximity.com/profiles/35afbfbd-eff9-4cac-af8b-8a0b7afebc/view
11 https://entered.com/case/rajan-v-principi
12 https://unicourt.com/case-ca-l3-rosenweig-lawrence-vs-soundarajan-thalavaipalayam-12/4822
13 https://doctor.webmd.com/doctor/t-s-soundarajan-805fbbb-5f94-48e2-8b7c-07f9aba6b6d-overview
14 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm2Zf8Svuo
16 https://cnmat.org/~cyril/resume.html
17 https://unicourt.com/case/ca-ccc-cyril-drame-vs-thenmozhi-soundarajan-37455
THENMOZHI SOUNDARAJAN
(FORMERLY THENMOZHI SOUNDARAJAN DRAKE)

About me: A US-born techie, story-teller and musician, with an alleged expertise on Dalit fault-line of India, groomed by anti-India operatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- BA from UC Berkeley University</td>
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<td>- Masters from University of Southern California</td>
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<td>- Co-founder of Equality Labs (2016-Present)</td>
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<td>- Co-founder of Dalit Nation (2011-Present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Former President of Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Co-founder of the Media Justice Network, and Third World Majority</td>
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<th>Co-curricular activities:</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Apprentice of K2 operative Huma Dar</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Works hand in hand with US Islamist organizations that lobby against India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Organizing protests with a Khalistani-ISIS operative Bhajan Singh Bhinder.</td>
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<td>- Staging protest with a fake white expert Peter Friedrich.</td>
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<td>- Targeting Tech giant companies on the pretext of caste discourse</td>
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<th>Family:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Father</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Thalavaipalayam Soundarajan</td>
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| Mother |
| Dr. Thilakavathy Soundararajan |

| Husband |
| Cyril Drame |
Equality Labs' co-founder is Sharmin Hossain, a Bangladeshi American, who served as the Political Director before rendering her resignation in March 2021. In April 2021, she founded a new organization Queer Crescent, which is described as a political home for LGBTQI+ Muslims.

EL’s cofounders/ members have pulled off acts in the public for publicity. One of EL’s members is Aruna Lohitakshi Sanghapali (also Sanghapali Aruna Kornana), an anti-caste activist and Executive Director of Project Mukti. Project Mukti is an incubator working as a Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi women and children-focused start-up working to end the effects of caste, tribe, and class discrimination.

Her family was closely associated with the Backward and Minority Communities Employees Federation (BAMCEF). She is a leading member of the Dalit Women Self-Respect Yatra that focuses on ending Caste-Based Sexual Violence and has also represented Dalit women in a side event of the 26th session of UNHRC, Geneva in June 2014 sponsored by several organizations including Human Rights Watch, Minority Rights Group, Franciscan International, and Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, organized in association with the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and co-sponsored by Denmark and Norway.

Note:
Founded in 2000, IDSN is a network of international human rights groups that advocate for Dalit human rights and raise awareness of Dalit issues nationally and internationally. IDSN has members from several countries including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Japan, South African countries, etc.

One of its key partner NGOs from India is Navsarjan Trust.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), India canceled the FCRA license of a Gujarat-based NGO, Navsarjan Trust citing that the NGO was indulged in “undesirable activities aimed to affect prejudicially harmony between religious, racial, social, linguistic, regional groups, castes or communities.”

18 https://www.linkedin.com/in/sharmin-hossain-298792200/
19 https://www.queercrescent.org/
20 https://www.projectmukti.com/our-vision
23 https://idsn.org/about-us/
24 https://idsn.org/countries/
She is also one of the board members of Jai Bhim International, a non-profit organization based in San Francisco that operates in India, mainly in Kerala. She is currently a doctoral fellow in Linguistics at JNU, New Delhi.

Aruna Sanghapali was one of the key persons who organized a placard holding with the former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey promoting ‘Smash Brahminical Patriarchy’ and ‘End Caste Apartheid’ posters in 2018.

http://jaibhiminternational.org/team
https://blossomprojects.org/
Chapter 2: Equality Labs 2018 Caste report

Equality Labs’ claim to fame has been 2018 a single survey report on Caste in the last six years. This EL report was later used as a means to mainstream Equality Labs. Two years later, Equality Labs started gaining prominence from 2020 onwards as its report was used in the lawsuit filed against CISCO. Since then, EL is being seen as a stalwart organization in the US. CISCO employee Prathap Balakrishnan, who works as a Technical Lead there also played a key role in curating the 2018 Caste report of Equality Labs. Two years later, CISCO was in the middle of the controversy about caste discrimination, and the case was built on the 2018 Caste report of Equality Labs.

The report on caste published by Equality Labs credits several ‘activists’ and ‘organizations’ that are behind its curation. And it is this report that tells us all that we need to know about the people behind the organization and its ulterior agenda. EL published its caste report in the US with the assistance of several organizations such as IAMC, OFMI, and AJA - a coalition of organizations alongside IAMC, OFMI, and HfHR. The readers of DisInfo Lab Reports would be very much familiar with these organizations. For reference, you may see our past reports on these fronts:

- **IAMC**: Indian American Muslim Council
- **OFMI**: Organization for Minorities of India
- **HfHR**: Hindus for Human Rights
- **AJA**: Alliance for Justice and Accountability

These organizations are fronts created by Pak Establishment/ Jamaat-e-Islami in the US as part of its longest war against India. And as if to confirm our suspicion, the names of Bhajan Singh Bhinder and his entity Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI) were removed from the EL report following the formers’ expose in 2021 in "The Unending War Part 1". It is worth asking Equality Labs what were the reasons for hiding their association with Bhinder and OFMI.

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30 https://www.equalitylabs.org/castesurvey
31 https://regmedia.co.uk/2020/07/01/cisco.pdf#page=4
32 https://in.linkedin.com/in/prathap-balakrishnan-94307797
35 https://thedisinfolab.org/the-un-ending-war-from-proxy-war-to-info-war-against-india/
After having seen how the EL report was being used as an apparatus to mainstream the organization, it was imperative to understand the people behind the report and its contributors starting from its authors. The report was co-authored by three people namely Natasha Dar, EL’s Research Director Maari Zwick Maitreyi, and Thenmozhi Soundarajan.

Each of these characters tells an interesting story.
Chapter 3: Equality Labs & Huma Dar

The co-author of Equality Labs 2018 Annual caste report is Natasha Dar, the daughter of the Khalistani sympathizer, Huma Dar (formerly Huma Farooq Dar).

Huma Dar has been living in the US since the 1990s. She completed her graduation with Bachelor in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley (1995 batch). She pursued her Master of Arts in South Asian Studies at, the University of California in 2002. Huma Dar is the core of not one but several fronts and fault traces of India. She has been a key proponent of the Kashmir-Khalistan desk (K2) conceived by Pakistan’s ISI. Her role in the Khalistan movement is by publicly delivering speeches to espouse the formation of Khalistan. On June 11, 2017, Huma Dar attended a Sikh rally in San Francisco and sympathized with the Khalistani movement.

And on the Kashmir desk, she portrays herself as an expert on the Kashmir conflict. She was listed as an expert in the Pakistan-backed organization Stand with Kashmir (SWK) which portrays as the stalwart activism group on the Kashmir conflict in the US. Over the years of her stay in the US, Huma also set forth her journey as an ‘expert’ on the caste lines. She was one of the advisory board members of Equality Labs (as of 2018) when her daughter Natasha Dar co-authored EL’s only report on caste. Thenmozhi’s mother has a fond relationship with both Huma Dar and Natasha Dar on Facebook.

![Equality Labs Advisory Board](https://web.archive.org/web/20180327012939/https://www.equalitylabs.org/staff/)

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36 https://aadds.berkeley.edu/huma-dar/
37 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG2mjOF_E
38 https://standwithkashmir.org/who-we-are/
40 https://www.facebook.com/thilakavathy.soundararajan/friends
Huma Dar’s calls to ‘punish India’

Most recently, Huma Dar started seeding the call for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDSM) against India in 2019. A total of 55 academics, filmmakers, activists, and lawyers jointly called for the BDS movement against India over the purported views of India following Israel’s model in Kashmir. 41 Some of the names in the list comprised of individuals who have been actively perpetuating the Kashmir conflict industry.

Some of the other key names in the list include:

a. **Farhan Mujahid Chak**- A Pakistani national currently living in Qatar and the Secretary General of the organization Kashmir Civitas (KC) that has bases in Toronto, Istanbul, Qatar, London, and Beijing. In December 2021, KC spearheaded a three-day tribunal that was co-organized by several organizations backed by Pakistan and is inclined toward the global Muslim Brotherhood. Later, KC released a toolkit that proposed the BDS movement against India. 42 43

b. **Angana Chatterji**- She is a research anthropologist and founding co-chair of the Political Conflict, Gender and People’s Rights Initiative at the Center for Race and Gender at the University of California, Berkeley. 44 Besides, she has been a close aide of the convicted ISI puppet Ghulam Nabi Fai.

c. **Haley Duschinski**- She is an associate professor of anthropology at Ohio University. She appeared in the picture of the Kashmir conflict industry from 2016 onwards. 45

d. **Hafsa Kanjwal**- She is an Assistant Professor of South Asian History at Lafayette College. She was groomed by none other than Ghulam Nabi Fai and by the Pakistani embassy in Washington in the early 2000s. Kanjwal has been given prominence from 2019 onwards and is one of the key faces of the Pak-backed organization, Stand with Kashmir (SWK). 46

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42. https://twitter.com/Mazahmat1931/status/150407356228555717
43. https://thedisinfolab.org/muslim-brotherhoods-new-startup-kashmir/
44. https://web.archive.org/web/20220327074328/https://www.crg.berkeley.edu/angana-chatterji/
45. https://www.ohio.edu/cas/duschins
Most recently, Dar also attended the Russell Tribunal on Kashmir (RToK) held in Sarajevo (Bosnia, & Herzegovina) in December 2021 on the Kashmir issue to give precursor to a larger agenda i.e., the BDS movement. 47

Why a person would be working on not one but numerous fronts and would be in charge of activities in regards to targeting India?

Huma Dar has established herself as an anchor to all the actions that take place to widen the Indian fault lines, from being an expert on the Kashmir war to sympathizing with and endorsing the Khalistani movement, to being part of the organization that pursues India’s caste line in the US.

What is BDS Movement?

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement is a Palestinian-led movement implemented in 2005 to impose political and economic damage on Israel. The motive included Boycotting Israeli products, asking foreign companies to Divest from Israel, and getting heavy sanctions on Israel by influencing/lobbying various international groups/ global bodies.

The same movement is headed toward India led by the Muslim Brotherhood in tandem with Pakistan and Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI). Harbinger to the BDSM against India was the Russell Tribunal on Kashmir (TRoK) event held in December 2021, in Sarajevo.

To read more about the BDS movement, refer to "Muslim Brotherhood’s New Startup: Kashmir" by The DisinfoLab. 48

47 https://thedisinfoab.org/muslim-brotherhoods-new-startup-kashmir/
48 https://thedisinfoab.org/muslim-brotherhoods-new-startup-kashmir/
HUMA DAR  
(formerly Huma Farooq Dar)

DoB- October 22, 1963  
(Murree, Punjab, Pakistan)

Nationality: Pakistan  
origin in the US

Twitter: @baalegibreel

About me: Daughter of a former Pakistani army officer. Currently working as a professor at UC Berkeley University, but primary role is operating on the Kashmir- Khalistan desk.

Education:

- MA in South Asian Studies, University California, 2002.
- PG in Women, Gender and Sexuality, University California, Berkeley, since 2002.

Co-curricular activities:

- Called for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against India.
- Writes articles on India’s Dalit fault lines.
- Attended Russell Tribunal on Kashmir (RToK), organized by Muslim Brotherhood, Jamaat and Pakistan.

Profession:

- Pak-backed Activist
- Professor at Berkeley University
- Purported expert on Kashmir
- Khalistani sympathizer

Family:

Father  
Lt Col RETD. Bashir Uddin Ahmad

Husband  
Mehdi Farooq

Daughter  
Natasha Dar  
(Drafted Equality Labs’ 2018 Caste report)

Organizations:

- Former Executive Director of Narika (2001-06)
- Advisory Board member of Equality Labs (until 2018)
- Expert at Pak-backed organization Stand With Kashmir (SWK)
- Frequent platforms of orgs active on Kashmir – KCHR
Chapter 4: An untold story of Pak Army officer: Bashir-Uddin Ahmad

To understand the present objectives and stance one needs to understand her past whereabouts and family roots. Huma was born on October 22, 1963, in Murree, Punjab (Pakistan) to Lieutenant Colonel Bashir Uddin Ahmad and Khalida Bashir Ahmad.

Bashir Uddin Ahmad was born on October 18, 1924, in Srinagar, Kashmir, and later went to Pakistan after the partition. There he joined the Pakistani army and subsequently got promoted and served as a Lieutenant Colonel until he retired. We found that Bashir Uddin Ahmad was present on at least two occasions while serving in the Pakistani army, both of which occurred during the Indo-Pak war in 1965 and 1971.

First case: Battle of Asal Uttar
The battle of Asal Uttar which is known as one of the largest tank battles ever fought during an Indo-Pak war took place between September 8-10, 1965. Pakistan’s 1st Armoured Division and 11th Infantry Division breached the international border to capture the Indian town of Khem Karan.

Indian army retaliated with brute tactical force and emerged victorious in what also ended as the most humiliating defeat for Pakistan in a war. Pakistan admitted to losing 165 tanks during the 1965 war, out of which half of them were destroyed during the Battle of Asal Uttar. Lt. Colonel Bashir Ahmad, who was in the 19th Lancers under the 3rd Armoured Brigade was also there in the Asal Uttar war. According to one of the accounts of the battle of Asal Uttar, an incident occurred between two Pak army regiments resulting in some losses due to a mix-up in communications at Chawinda. Following that, Lt. Colonel Bashir Ahmad was blamed for the mishapening but was later reinstated on the front-line duty following detailed investigations over the charges against him.

After the 1965 war, Lt. Colonel Bashir Ahmad was assigned to command the Guides Cavalry. The investigating officer looking into Bashir Ahmad’s case was Gen. Abrar Hussain, who was supposed to absolve the former who passed away due to a stroke. Subsequently, the board led by General Yahya Khan (3rd President of Pakistan) sacked Bashir Uddin in 1966 without having a complete briefing of the investigation; therefore, drawing curtains to his military career. 49

Second case: Posted in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)
In the second instance, Lt. Colonel Bashir Ahmad was once posted in then-East Pakistan (Bangladesh) in the Pakistani army as a Lieutenant. It is not clear in which year, but one of his colleagues, Captain Qayyum, whose daughter Fareeha is also listed as a family member of Huma Dar played a significant role in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. 50

49 https://www.indianmilitaryhistory.org/india/assaluttar.html
50 https://www.facebook.com/HumaBDar/about_family_and_relationships
The 1971 Bangladesh genocide is one of the largest genocides perpetrated on the civilian population at the behest of the Pakistani army and the brutal militant group Al-Badr and Jamaat-e-Islami members from March 26-December 16, 1971. However, with the intervention of India led to the Indo-Pak war that lasted from December 3-16, 1971, and saw the subsequent formation of a newly independent nation, Bangladesh.

According to Banglapedia, the Pakistani army designed a blueprint to carry out the whole barbaric act was chalked out by ten people and led by Major General Rao Farman Ali, the military adviser to the Governor of East Pakistan. And the execution of the blueprint was carried out by Lt Colonel Hejazi, Major Zahur, Major Aslam, Captain Nasir, and Captain Qayyum.  

Qayyum retired as a three-star Lieutenant General in 2004 and is a recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiyaz. Qayyum is an influential figure among the Pakistani army circle. He can be seen with many influential Pak army members including the ISPR members. Moreover, he has been previously seen with Lt. General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, the frontrunner candidate for succeeding the Pakistani Army chief Qamar Bajwa talking about his stature.

Abdul Qayyum with Shamshad Mirza (rightmost)

After having served humiliation in 1971, Pakistan set out to strategize and implement covert plans and operations to balkanize and bleed India by a thousand cuts. Subsequently, Pakistan under the leadership of Zia Ul Haq launched Operation Tupac.

Post the authorization of Operation Tupac, a plethora of organizations mushroomed in the US, as well as in Kashmir. India’s fault lines were identified and later organizations were deployed to operate on them. Organizations in Kashmir, Khalistan, and the caste line mushroomed in the US, a safe sanctuary for those organizations to operate.

**Bashir Uddin passes the baton to his daughter**

Bashir Uddin himself went behind the scene and the baton was passed on to his progenies. Bashir Uddin Ahmad passed away in February 2016 aged 94, however, her daughter continues to carry the baton. Therefore, it may not be difficult to understand why Huma Dar is part of all these circuits today that aim to target

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52 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Qayyum_(general)
India, not through one but several fault lines varying from Kashmir-Khalistan (K2) to now Dalit line, and herself constitutes an ecosystem of all these fronts, all intended to deepen India’s fault lines.

Bashir Uddin Ahmad and Huma’s son Zavain Dar & Bashir Uddin’s epitaph
Chapter 5: The Curious Case of Maari Zwick Maitreyi

The third author of EL’s caste report is Maari Zwick Maitreyi, the co-founder and Research Director of Equality Labs and has long been associated with Thenmozhi Soundararajan. Apart from leading EL and co-authoring its caste report, Maari Zwick Maitreyi is also credited with the formation of “Dalit History Month” (DHM), a project which was launched by the Dalit Nation along with Project Mukti in 2015. However, after the launch of Equality Labs in 2016, the credit for the launch of the DHM project has been taken by Equality Labs, the successor of the Dalit Nation.

However, she was found in yet another organization, a news portal Two Circles. Two Circles is a Massachusetts-based not-for-profit news portal that covers stories pertaining to “marginalized sections of India.”

But there was a catch to it.

Maari was associated with the news portal, Two Circles but with a different name, donning an altogether different identity, that of a journalist by the name of Valli Karunakaran.

Valli Karunakaran alias Maari Zwick Maitreyi is the Director and Executive Editor of Two Circles. After having worked at Two Circles as the editor for two years, Valli Karunakaran joined its leadership in November 2017.

Valli Karunakaran is a Dalit activist and a biochemist who holds a Ph.D. degree in biology and has been working with TCN since 2016. It is not clear whether Valli alias Maari has publicly claimed both the identities as hers or not, but at first glance, both these identities and their social media presence look unlike each other.

(From Left- Valli Karunakaran of TCN to Maari Zwick Maitriyi of Equality Labs)
While Valli has been associated with the journalism field through TCN, her second identity has been to be in the field of activism.

**Three names from one entity:**
Not once, but at least three names in the EL’s report pointed towards one entity-Two Circles, a news portal based out of Massachusetts, USA that reports about the marginalized communities in India. The report thanked two key individuals i.e., Kashif Ul Huda and Vinay Bhatt, the founder and former Director of Two Circles respectively. The third key person associated with Two Circles was the report’s co-author Maari Zwick Maitreyi herself.

**In conclusion:**
- Equality Labs’ only caste report (2018) is now used as the base to drag US-based tech giants into controversy.
- The report was co-authored by three people: Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Natasha Dar, and Maari Zwick Maitreyi.
- Natasha Dar’s mother, Huma Dar is the daughter of Lt. Colonel Bashir Uddin Ahmad was a high-ranking Pakistani army officer.
- Presently, Huma Dar is engaged with all possible prominent movements and organizations intended to dent India’s image.
- At least three names in the EL lab report pointed toward a news portal Two Circles, Inc.
Part II: Two Circles- Past
Chapter 6: Two Circles- The Founder

As instanced earlier, TCN’s founder and former Director were instrumental in EL’s report on the caste issue. The news portal was formed in 2006-07 as a news platform with a budget of USD 1200. The stated aim of launching Two Circles was to cater to the issues and interests of Indian Muslims. And the key person behind its formation is Kashif Ul-Huda, who has had not one, but several ventures in the US, India, and Pakistan. To understand what went behind opening several businesses, followed by opening a news portal (TCN), it is important to understand the person behind them.

Kashif Ul Huda

Born in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, Kashif Ul Huda, and his family shifted to Jamshedpur where his father Zahoorul Hoda worked at TATA Companies (Telco). Kashif completed his early education in Jamshedpur. He did his early schooling at St. Joseph's High School in Jamshedpur before enrolling himself in Maharishi Vidya Mandir in Lucknow. As a child, Kashif claims he’d witnessed riots in Jamshedpur in 1979 and later in 1992 in Lucknow.

Furthermore, he claimed to have moved to the US in the 1990s to pursue higher education wherein he studied Biochemistry and Cell Biology at the University of California, San Diego. However, his interviews have seemed to contradict his claims about his past, especially about the time he went to the US in the 1990s or 2000s.

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66 https://www.facebook.com/kashif.hoda.5
67 https://www.facebook.com/kashifulhuda
**KASHIF UL HUDA**

**About me:** A US-based journalist who believes that “India is an amalgamation of many different nations” and defends banned radical group SIMI. Runs a media portal in the US and has other businesses running in Pakistan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Biochemistry &amp; Cell Biology, University of California</td>
<td>- Married</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Profession:**
- Journalist

**Organizations:**
- Co-founder of Urdustan with his wife and colleagues in Pakistan and UAE.
- Co-founder of IndianMuslims.info
- Founder of TwoCircles.net (2006-07)
- Founder of A Biel Company (2020)
- Founder of Cambridge Somerville Asset management (2020)
- Represented Boston chapter of IAMC.

**Co-curricular activities:**
- Promoted Dalitstan website that sought fragmentation of India into several countries.
- Publicly sympathizes with banned radical terrorist Zakir Naik.
- Helps build alternate media portals that peddle a singular narrative on events.
- Insinuates polarity in communities in India through his news portal.

**Family:**
- Father: Mohammad Zahoorul Hoda
- Brother: Majaz Hoda
- Spouse: Zainab Lakhani (Cousin)

**DoB:** May 22, 1974 (Muzaffarpur, Bihar)
**Nationality:** Indian origin in the US
**Twitter:** @kaaashif
Kashif is married to Zainab Lakhani, the daughter of Durdana Parveen (late). Zainab is a Vascular Surgery Technologist and a former member of the Cambridge Human Rights Commission (Sep 2014 - Dec 2016). She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Florida Atlantic University and has worked as a writer, editor, and columnist for online portals. Furthermore, Zainab also ran for Presidential Primary from Cambridge, Massachusetts as a Democrat in 2012.

Kashif has successfully formed several ventures, some along with Zainab since the 1990s. The first organization formed as early as 1998-99 with a website ‘Urdustan’, followed by online portals, including Two Circles, INC. In one of the interviews in 2010, Kashif stated that the news platform operates via community funding and employees work remotely. At that time, Kashif was living in the US, while TCN was operating from India.
Chapter 7: Kashif's ventures in Pakistan

It was after shifting to the US in the 1990s, Kashif got introduced to the internet and that is when he became a technophile. He set up an Urdu website named Urdustan in 1997 which later got prominence as the oldest Urdu website on the internet. Under Urdustan, Kashif launched other key projects which later prospered into standalone portals including his present venture Two Circles.

However, his first ever venture was not run by himself alone, but from different other places including Pakistan, Dubai, and India.

Urdustan

Kashif along with his wife Zainab Lakhani started a website for Urdu poetry Urdustan.com. The website first started as ANAM or A Nazm A Month and continued to grow since the early days of 1997 to become urdustan.com on 13th August 1998. The website was designed by two people: Kashif and Naseem Amjad, a Lahore-based web developer.

Urdustan was turned into a registered entity on January 4, 2007, though is currently inactive.

Urdustan was based in San Diego, USA, however, it was also run by people from India, Dubai, USA, and Pakistan. Urdustan had a network of Urdu sites such as kitaabghar.com, UrduCorner.com, and Urdustan.net.

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77 https://web.archive.org/web/20071001131254/http://www.indianmuslims.info/about_us
79 https://groups.google.com/g/alt.language.urdu.poetry/c/Nt1h4sT_dQQ
80 https://www.linkedin.com/in/naseemamjad/
81 https://search.sunbiz.org/Inquiry/CorporationSearch/ConvertTiffToPDF?storagePath=COR%5C2007%5C0124%5C01085602.Tiff&documentNumber=L07000007620
82 https://web.archive.org/web/20080630033955/http://www.urdustan.com/about.htm
Apart from his online venture Urdustan, Kashif also had a couple of ventures running from Pakistan - two book publishing houses namely: **Ilmo Irfan** and **Kitaabghar**. Kashif is credited with registering the website domains of both these publishing houses that operate from Lahore and Rawalpindi respectively.

**Note:**

Kashif has been a staunch defender of the banned radical student group Students Islamic Organization of India (SIMI), which was banned on several instances for having links with terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba.

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In 2001 SIMI was banned without any evidence, in 2016 IRF banned without any evidence. now a new generation of Muslim youth will be arrested

3:45 PM - Nov 15, 2016 - Twitter Web Client

SIMI always appealed against the ban but SC never gave it a date to hear the case. when ban was repealed once, SC overturned it next day.

9:45 PM - Nov 15, 2016 - Twitter Web Client

SIMI banned again for two years. Terrorizing Muslims of Azamgarh. Are the educated young Muslims of India target of this witch-hunt?

3:38 AM - Feb 6, 2010 - Twitter Web Client

State seeks seventh ban on SIMI with mostly stale evidence - Mumbai Mirror mumbaimirror.com/mumbai/crime/S...

9:35 PM - Apr 16, 2014 - Twitter for Websites

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83 https://whois/whois/Kitaabghar.com
84 https://viewdns.info/whois/?domain=ilmoirfanpublishers.com
85 https://ilmoirfanpublishers.com/contact-v1/
Chapter 8: IndianMuslims.info

Kashif launched another website IndianMuslims (IndianMuslims.info) in 2002, (contrary to his claims of launching the website in 2005). IndianMuslims was intended to cover the news and information about the Muslim world, primarily focusing on Muslims in the Indian subcontinent. One key driving factor of the portal as per Kashif was to cover news and publications on the Gujarat riots. Later on, IndianMuslims.info transformed into a key baby project of Kashif (which will be discussed in subsequent parts). IndianMuslims.info endorsed several websites pertaining to the interests of Dalits and Muslims in India.

For Muslims, the website recommended two key websites: Muslimunity.cc & Irf.net. Muslimunity.cc was anonymously run by and promoted links for “Exposing Hindutva” and “Dark side of Hinduism” on its websites. The website was founded on October 13, 2001, to establish Khilafat and promote the Islamic way of life all over the world. Irf.net is the Islamic Relief Foundation- by Zakir Naik. In addition, several other resources/ references were noted by Kashif’s ‘IndianMuslims.Info, all somehow connected with Pakistan,

Tanseem-e-Islami: A radical off-shoot of Jamaat-e-Islami
It also contained another key website of a Pakistan-based organization Tanzeem-e-Islami. Tanzeem-e-Islami (TI) is an off-shoot of Jamaat-e-Islami (Pakistan) founded by Dr. Israr Ahmed. Jamaat-e-Islami got into domestic politics from 1957 onwards leading to disagreements between the group and Israr Ahmed. Subsequently, he formed his group Tanzeem-e-Islami in 1975. Israr Ahmed has often been caught spreading rumors in the Muslim world including a rumor blaming Israel behind the 9/11 attacks in the US.

Islamic Research Foundation
Another key website recommended on IndianMuslims.Info for Muslims was of Islamic Research Foundation (Irf.net). IRF was a Mumbai-based charitable trust founded in February 1991 by Zakir Abdul Karim Naik, commonly known as Zakir Naik, a wanted man in India who fled the country in 2016. He was named by security agencies in a case for funding and plotting with Popular Front of India (PFI) elements to carry out terror attacks/ bomb blasts across parts of India ahead of January 26, 2021.
Incidently, Kashif is a staunch sympathizer of Zakir Nair and his organization IRF. Kashif’s cousin Mohammad Ali Amir is close to Zakir Naik. 97

Kashif sympathizes with Zakir Naik(left) & Kashif's brother Mohammad Ali Amir with Zakir Naik

TCN in India

Kashif launched a news portal in 2006-07, as the successor to the IndianMuslims.info website and as a part of the Urdustan network. 98 The motive behind creating TCN was to cover the news from marginalized sections of India with a primary focus on the Indian Muslims, and the problems faced by them.

While the TCN was operating through its website from 2006-07 onwards, it was registered as an entity on September 24, 2009, in Hyderabad, India as TCN Media Pvt. Ltd. 99 One of the directors of the company was Mohammad Aaris and Irfan Aziz was Kashif’s brother Majaz Hoda. 100

The managing editor of the platform was Kashif Huda, while the news editor of the portal was Mumtaz Alam Falahi. During the first phase, when TCN was in India, it was also run by the family members of Kashif. The business director at that time was Majaz Hoda, and Kashif’s brother-in-law Nehal Hassan served as the business manager. 101

97 https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=529546560446596&set=a.198484263552892
101 https://web.archive.org/web/2009030140646/http://twocircles.net/about.html
TCN launched its awards in 2010 and invited Salman Khurshid, the then Union Minister for Minority Affairs, and K Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. The function was also attended by Irfan Azeez, a political activist from Hyderabad, Navaid Hamid, a member of the National Integration Council (NIC), Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan, editor, Milli Gazette prominent many others.
Chapter 9: Two Circles goes to the US

As noted earlier, Two Circles was registered as TCN Media Private Limited in Hyderabad, India in 2009.

In July 2012, Assam witnessed civil riots; the violence that shook the north-east region. Subsequently, on August 19, 2012, the Ministry of Communication & IT of the Government of India issued banned several websites/ videos/ Social media pages that triggered panic over the north-east riots at that time. The Indian government stated that several Pakistan websites of spreading false rumors and pictures to instigate a communal rift in India. 102

Two of TCN’s web pages were among the list of webpages/ websites banned by the Government of India to curb the communal hatred posted online. 103 However, both the webpages of TCN were not related to the Assam violence. 104 TCN sought to take legal action against the Indian government. 105 Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), Indian Muslim Relief and Charities (IMRC), and the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI) released a joint statement in support of TCN and asked the Indian government to revoke the decision of blocking webpages of TCN. 106

TCN gets registered in the US

In a peculiar move, the entity was shut down on September 30, 2013, in India, 107 and two months later, the same entity was registered in Massachusetts, the USA by the name, Two Circles, INC, on December 26, 2013. 108

Two key names associated with TCN were Rizwan Manzer, a physician-scientist in drug development who currently lives in Boston and Treasurer of Two Circles since 2015; and Vinay Bhat, former Director of Two Circles (from 2010-13). Bhatt hails from Mumbai and graduated from Cornell University, currently living in San Francisco, California. 109 He is married to a Chinese national Kristie Angel Chan, who belongs to the Chinese Progressive Association. 110

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104 https://web.archive.org/web/20140702012059/http://twocircles.net/Special_Reports/tcn_pages_blocked_india.html#.U7Ne2zHbP25d
108 https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?sysvalue=BUwv55S2yQH-5R4TALQnfTlIC3iZ03L3UfV-HFRUg-
109 https://www.facebook.com/vinaybhat25
110 https://www.facebook.com/kristie.a.chan
Paul Malachi Penchalapadu- Paul Malachi is from the Telangana region of India and is currently a resident of Massachusetts. He is interested in public health and works as an analyst in a Boston area hospital. He volunteers with South Asian community organizations in the area including the Association for India’s Development. He resigned from the board in 2019. Apart from his stint with Two Circles, Paul Malachi is also the Treasurer of the Indian Community Church (ICC). Indian Community Church (ICC) is a Massachusetts-based group that claims to carry out missionary activities by targeting people of different faith in Boston and nearby areas. Its founder, Suresh Sammangi was a practicing Hindu before he converted to Christianity in the early 2000s.

Suresh Sammangi is also associated with another missionary- the North American Mission Board (NAMB), which is North America’s largest missionary. NAMB has several associated partners that operate in India including the International Mission Board (IMB), which propagates the teachings of Christianity. They work in several regions globally such as Central Asia, South Asia, Africa, Europe, and the USA.

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111 https://web.archive.org/web/20160305135746/http://twocircles.net/about/board_directors.html#.Vtrl5Hb7S3A
112 https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_ma/001176357
113 https://indiancommunitychurch.com/about/
114 https://indiancommunitychurch.com/who-we-are/
115 https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10000604999036
TCN- A tool of narrative setting

When TCN was formed in 2007, its objective was to cater to and promote the interests of the marginalized sections of India. However, the portal shifted to the US in 2013. And from 2014 onwards, its website gets revamped with updated categories. Categories of Dalits, Tribals, and women were added in 2014, followed by adding ‘Lynching’ category from 2017 onwards.

While these efforts by TCN to cover the most marginalized sections of India were commendable, the website once looked carefully revealed its biased nature of reporting.

Although TCN covers news pertaining to the Dalits, Adivasis, women, and Muslims, it has been selective in feeding the news to its audience. If a crime involves two marginalized communities, TCN doesn’t cover it. And coming to the women section of their website, which covers stories about women of India, too was found to have selective picking of the news.

Irony Alert:

TCN despite setting itself a benchmark for its journalistic work failed to cover news of women getting molested/ killed/ raped in the crime committed by the perpetrators of marginalized communities. The ethics of journalism was nowhere to be seen even in the most sensitive cases for which the portal has a section.

If one is to understand how and why TCN practices selective journalism, he/ she has to understand the ecosystem the portal is part of. Two Circles during its initial years of formation were being roped in among the US Jamaat and Islamist circles. On December 11, 2010, IAMC held its annual fundraising dinner at the Paradise

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Indian Cuisine in Baltimore. In the event, it was revealed that IAMC was sponsoring TCN for its work of covering the issues of the minorities of India.\textsuperscript{119}

TCN doesn't work independently but works cohesively with certain organizations in the US such as IAMC and EL, and it functions to provide media space and relevance to these entities and in turn help in promulgating narratives set by them.

One of the examples is how Kashif and TCN members Vinay Bhatt and Vally Karunakaran alias Maari Zwick Maitreyi (EL member) were instrumental in the drafting of the 2018 Caste report of the Equality Labs. And how TCN helped mainstream Equality Labs by promoting the latter via its platform on numerous occasions to help nourish the caste line narrative in India and globally.\textsuperscript{119 120 121 122 123}

How much TCN is inclined toward IAMC can be understood by how the portal promotes the latter via its platform. From covering name change news of IAMC from IMC-USA to reporting the change in leadership of IAMC, to even echoing narratives called out by IAMC via its platform.\textsuperscript{124 125 126 127} TCN has been active in giving validations and relevance to IAMC and its motives through its platforms.

A short recap of the Disinfo Lab reports would explain how IAMC on several instances had/ has been trying to target India, and how its founder worked hand in hand with the Pak-Jamaat subsidiaries in the US to lobby against India and get the country sanctioned by infiltrating the United States Commission of International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) in 2013-14 and 2018-20.

To learn more details about IAMC and its activities, refer to our report, "\textit{USCIRF: An Organization of Particular Concern}".\textsuperscript{128}

\textsuperscript{119} \url{http://www.muslimlinkpaper.com/myjumla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2441%3Aevening-for-indian-muslim-advocacy-group-about-accomplishments-expansion&Itemid=17}
\textsuperscript{120} \url{https://twocircles.net/2020may24/437079.html}
\textsuperscript{121} \url{http://www.muslimlinkpaper.com/myjumla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2441%3Aevening-for-indian-muslim-advocacy-group-about-accomplishments-expansion&Itemid=17}
\textsuperscript{122} \url{https://twocircles.net/2019may22/431450.html}
\textsuperscript{123} \url{https://twocircles.net/2021aug25/443457.html}
\textsuperscript{124} \url{https://twocircles.net/2011jan02/233520.html}
\textsuperscript{125} \url{https://twocircles.net/2021oct26/443956.html}
\textsuperscript{126} \url{https://thedisinfolab.org/uscirf-an-organization-of-particular-concern/}

36
Chapter 10: Kashif and US Jamaat circuit

Not just IAMC was sponsoring TCN in its early days of formation, but both Kashif and his wife Zainab have been active members of the Boston chapter of IAMC (which supposedly is inactive). They held on-ground protests and even attended ICNA conventions as representatives of the IAMC Boston chapter.

Huda family links with the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center

The Huda family lives in Boston and visits the local Islamic Society of Boston Mosque (ISB Cambridge) & Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC). ISBCC is run by the Muslim American Society (MAS), which in turn was founded by the US Muslim Brotherhood in 1993. MAS later merged with the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the US wing of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in 2000. However, the Boston Mosque has been known to have been attended by several people who have been investigated for terrorism and extremism. While its sister mosque Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) also has its history of supporting extremists. Both the mosques are owned by the same entity Islamic Society of Boston (ISB) but are run separately. There have been several instances when both the mosques have been under federal investigation.

Interesting Fact:
lady Al-Qaeda, Pakistani origin Aafia Siddiqui, who is in US prison on terror charges, also used to pray at the Cambridge Mosque.

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129 https://twitter.com/iamcboston
130 https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/FOID/Reading%20Room/Joint_Staff/13-F-017_DOC_10-course-materials-perspectives-on-Islam-and-Islamic-radicalism.pdf#page=100
Besides, the Huda family also maintains an affable relationship with the ISBCC Imam Suhaib Webb.\textsuperscript{133} Suhaib Webb is an American citizen, who earlier went by the name Willie Webb before he converted to Islam. He became the Imam of ISBCC in October 2011.\textsuperscript{135} He also has a past of radical links including having a connection with the Al-Qaeda operative Anwar al-Awlaki. Anwar al-Awlaki was a Yemen-American Imam and a regional commander of al-Qaeda. He was killed in 2011 in a drone strike carried out by the US. Suhaib Webb appeared alongside Awlaki in public to raise 100,000 USD to defend Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (H Rap Brown), who shot and killed two Georgia police officers and was convicted of life imprisonment.\textsuperscript{136} Additionally, Suhaib Webb has been seen frequenting the spaces of ICNA and CAIR in their events.\textsuperscript{137}

\textsuperscript{133} https://twitter.com/zee83/status/552973012207995948
\textsuperscript{134} https://twitter.com/zee83/status/549983355685865233
\textsuperscript{135} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j0ShKNVkecg
\textsuperscript{136} https://dailycaller.com/2013/06/27/dzhokhar-tsarnaevs-imam-shares-ties-with-senior-al-qaeda-operative/
\textsuperscript{137} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HES6TpiVC-g
Chapter 11: Kashif’s other key ventures

Kashif apart from his news portal venture also set up at least two companies in the US in 2020. Both the ventures were varied, one into media and software and the other into real estate and financing. However, the peculiar thing about both these entities was the lack of concrete information available about their business presence, operations, and finances. The first is A Biel Company, which is a Media and Software- Phone apps development, marketing, and production company. 138 Kashif registered the entity as a key proprietor. A Biel Company last filed the annual return in 2021, however it lacked any sort of concrete data or finances that could depict the scale of its business. 139 The other venture is Cambridge Somerville Asset Management Group LLC Investment IN. The organization was founded on May 29, 2020, by Kashif Ul Huda, Dolly Arjun, and Kavita Sukerkar.

Dolly Asha Arjun is a Dalit-American activist and Indian-American physician assistant in Boston. 140 She is currently working at UMass Memorial Hospital, Massachusetts. 141 She is the founder of Adavi Myah a collective art formed in 2019 led by Bahujans and Dalits to fight for their rights in the US. 142

Kavita Sukerkar is a volunteer with Association for India’s Development (AID). Founded in 1991, AID is a volunteer movement promoting sustainable, equitable, and just development. 143 Kavita is associated with the Boston (US) chapter of AID. 144 145

138 https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?sysvalue=Iyyq5SlAJaqY9nbwO4GS75MzkpJuk0ASxd8mpN5jUE-
139 https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSearchViewPDF.aspx
140 https://physiciandirectory.brighamandwomens.org/faulkner/details/15639/dolly-arjun-internal_medicine-boston
141 https://www.linkedin.com/in/dolly-arjun-566519bb
142 https://m.facebook.com/Adavi-Myah-418614912032726/photos/
143 https://aidindia.org/about-aid/
144 https://www.aidboston.org/about-us.html
145 http://twocircles.net/2012jul05/pankti_jog_transforming_lives_through_right_information_act.html
Part III: Dalitstan - White People’s Burden
Chapter 12: Dalitstan

One of the key platforms that were widely promoted among others, by IndianMuslims.info was Dalitstan, which was essentially a secessionist project targeting India across its various fault-lines such as Khalistan, Kashmir, and Dravidstan among others. These are some fault lines envisaged under Pak Establishment’s Op Tupac and are being run through various fronts on each-fault line. This is also exactly what Kashif Ul Huda also seeks and propagates about breaking India into many other nations.146

Founders of Dalitstan:

But the story of Dalitstan is most interesting, as caste remains the most sensitive fault-lines. Dalitstan was launched in 1999 by some US-based individuals who advocated for the secession of India into several separate nations including a Dalit homeland.147 Dalitstan is also very interesting because it provides a unique example of collusion between Christian missionaries and Jamaat-e-Islami to carve their share from India. Another similar instance is found in the ‘Dismantling Hindutva’ project where individuals such as Audrey Truchske appear to be at a

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146 https://twitter.com/kaaashif/status/1537076317777079204
crucial junction of the Jamaat-Missionary project, targeting India through its various fault lines.

It was peculiar that the Dalitstan website contained all the secession links for India, but its founders were all Church-going Whites from the US. The founders of Dalitstan are as follows:

   a. Kermit Northcutt  
   b. Debra Schwartz  
   c. George Schwartz  
   d. Helen Eklund  
   e. Andy Moore

The website for the Dalitstan project was registered by Helen Eklund who was serving as its President. Other key members comprised Kermit Northcutt, George Schwartz, and Debra Schwartz. Dalitstan’s President, Kermit Northcutt is a devout Christian. He is a member of Antioch Christian Academy and is regularly seen there. Antioch Christian Academy comes under Antioch Network, which was founded in 1987 as an international multicultural fellowship that spans the globe, and runs its missionary in the US.\(^\text{148}\) Antioch Christian Academy is a ministry of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Lucedale, MS. ACA is a private Christian school and was established on June 14, 2008.\(^\text{149}\) The founder of Antioch Network is George Miley.\(^\text{150}\) Incidentally, George Miley is also on the advisory board member of Dalit Freedom Network (DFN)\(^\text{151}\) the US branch of the All-India Christian Council (AICC). (Elaborated in subsequent chapters).

Food for Thought:

None of the members of this so-called Dalit Project had ever been to India or had to do anything with India. Who and why was interested in targeting India’s...
geographical integrity, who also had the capabilities to rope in Christian Missionaries and Jamaat-e-Islami?

Chapter 13: Searching Foot soldiers: Dalit Voice

In a bid to rope in vocal Dalit voices from India, Dalitstan website owners contacted prominent Dalit faces from India. One of the key faces contacted by Dalitstan for contributing to its website was VT Rajshekar. A letter written by the Helen Eklund, one of the founders of Dalitstan website mentioned contacting VT Rajshekar to republish the contents of his then offline magazine ‘Dalit Voice’ (based in Bangalore) on their website.152 The communication was facilitated by Dr. Jamanadas Khobragade, a devoted Ambedkarite, writer, and author which led to the republication of Dalit Voice articles on the Dalitstan website.

Who is VT Rajshekar?

Vontibettu Thimmappa Rajshekar Shetty (a.k.a VT Rajshekar) is an Indian journalist and activist, and also the founder of the magazine Dalit Voice. Rajsekar worked at Indian Express for 25 years, before parting ways and starting his own magazine Dalit Voice (now defunct) in 1981.153 He was a suitable choice and was known in circles for his anti-India views. In 1986 Rajasekar’s passport was confiscated because of his controversial writing works from outside India. He was arrested in the same year under the Terrorism and Anti-Disruptive Activities Act

(TADA). And later on, he was again arrested under the Sedition Act under the Indian Penal Code.\textsuperscript{154}

**Dalit Voice goes online**

In 2004, the website of Dalit Voice was launched at Bangalore Press Club on September 12, 2004.\textsuperscript{155} Furthermore, Rajshekar also founded a publishing company Dalit Sahitya Akademy.\textsuperscript{156} It was in 2004 when Dalit Voice’s articles also began to be published online in the form of newsletters. The articles of DV were republished on a website, \textit{InformationTimes.com} from January 2004 onwards.\textsuperscript{157} Information Times was an independent newspaper and newsletter publisher founded by a \textbf{Pakistani national and Washington-based journalist Syed Adeeb}, who also has several media fronts. He is the Chief Editor of the Information Times, CEO of InfoTimes Network, Director of Free Press Network, and Producer-Editor of InfoTimes TV. In addition, Adeeb has been caught spreading conspiracy theories via his portals. In 2001, Adeeb seeded a conspiracy about the 9/11 attacks, which later was highlighted by various portals that the claims in the conspiracy were unsubstantiated.

He also espouses ISI’s propaganda on Kashmir, and regularly promotes the convicted ISI-mole Ghulam Nabi Fai’s activities against the Indian Embassies in the US.

Syed Adeeb has also written for several news portals including Dalit Voice.\textsuperscript{158}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Fun Fact:</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VT Rajshekar’s son is Salil Shetty, who is a human rights activist and was Secretary General of Amnesty International (from 2010-18). He has also served as the Chief Executive of Action Aid and became the Vice President of the Global Programs at Open Society Foundations in September 2021.\textsuperscript{159, 160}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2005, VT Rajshekar was conferred with "International Award 2005" for his book ‘Dalit - the Black Untouchables of India’ by a London-based organization \textbf{London Institute of South Asia (LISA)}.\textsuperscript{161} LISA specializes in affairs related to the South Asian nations and claims to have no links with any government or any political party, however, it was founded and run by the Pak army members, diplomats, and ISI officials.\textsuperscript{162}
VT Rajshekar awarded by LISA in 2005
Chapter 14: LISA UK

The London Institute of South Asia (LISA) is a not-for-profit organization specializing in the affairs of South Asia nations. LISA was incorporated as a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO) on August 5, 2016, in the United Kingdom (UK). However, this London-based front is yet another front like the London Story, which is essentially a Pak establishment front, was set up by a former Pakistani diplomat and journalists and has been run by the ISI & retired Pak Army officials. To remove any doubts, LISA’s esteemed list of contributors includes ISI mole Ghulam Nabi Fai and former retired diplomats from Pakistan. To remove any further doubts that it was a Pakistani project, one of LISA’s stated aims was “to represent South Asia’s many people whose voice has been throttled by India.” Since then, LISA continues to be the cradle for faces that have been critical of India.

Although LISA was registered as an entity in 2016, it had been operating since 2005. LISA was registered by Saeed Ismat, a Pakistani diplomat who served as Pakistani Ambassador to Azerbaijan from January 1993 to November 1994. Saeed Ismat possesses a 27-year-long experience of serving in the Pakistan military (from 1965-92) before venturing into LISA. He is currently the director of the organization. Other key faces associated with LISA are Dr. Shahid Ahmed Qureshi and Dr. Salma Bano.

Shahid Sultan Ahmed Qureshi (late) had a vast experience in journalism. He resided in London and had formerly worked as a Senior Political Analyst at BBC News. Furthermore, he also served as the Chief Editor of ‘The London Post’ Al-Jazeera, Press TV, MBC, Kazak TV (Kazakhstan), and LBC Radio London. He passed at the age of 56, in February 2022.

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165 https://who.is/whois/lisauk.com
166 https://www.linkedin.com/ln/saeed-ismat-2baa8a12/originalSubdomainuk
167 https://www.ocamagazine.com/2022/04/20/dr-shahid-qureshi/
168 https://www.facebook.com/Thelondonpost/
LISA UK Launching Book

In 2005, LISA published its first-ever book *Authentic Voices of South Asia* as an impetus to formally launch as an organization in London. The book had several writers who contributed to its chapters and were also listed as key members of the then, newly-formed entity. The members comprised former ISI officials, Dalit activists (VT Rajshekar), pro-Khalistani separatists, and Pakistani nationals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The principals of LISA are as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Brigadier (retd) Usmam Khalid (Pakistan) London - Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sami Malik (Pakistan) London UK - Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. V.T.Rajshekar, Editor Dalit Voice, Bangalore, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dr Miss K. F. Yusuf, former Vice Chancellor Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Dr. M. Abdul Mumin Chowdhury (East Pakistan) London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Dr Atwar Singh Selshon (Punjab), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Dr Syed M. Inayatullah Andrahi (Occupied Kashmir), London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Abidullah Jan (Pakistan), Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_LISA members (in 2006)_

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169 https://www.google.com/books/edition/Authentic_Voices_of_South_Asia/Vu4AAAAAMAAJ?hl=en

A. **Brigadier (retd.) Usman Khalid**

Brigadier Usman Khalid (late) was a Pakistani military general who served in the Pakistani army for 25 years. He is known to be one of the founding fathers of LISA UK.\(^{171}\) Usman Khalid played the role of an informer to the CIA about the whereabouts of the most wanted Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin in exchange for USD 25 million and US citizenship for himself and his family.\(^{172}\) He passed away at the age of 79 in 2014 after succumbing to cancer.\(^{173}\)

B. **Dr. Awtar Singh Sekhon**

Dr. Awtar Singh Sekhon is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs since June 1965.\(^{174}\) Dr. Sekhon had been the Director, Human Rights Wing, Council of Khalistan, Washington DC, and an Advisor of Foreign Affairs, Dal Khalsa Alliance of the United States. He advocates for the right to self-determination of states like Jammu & Kashmir state from India.\(^{175}\) He has also ‘authored’ several books supporting the cause of the Sikh cause, including supporting the Khalistani ideologue and its figure Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.\(^{176}\)

C. **Syed M Inayatullah Andrabi**

Dr. Syed Inayatullah Andrabi, the self-exiled leader of Mahaz-e-Islamic and former chief of Jamiat-e-Talaba (student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami). Inayatullah Andrabi is the brother and ideological mentor of the hardliner Dukhtaran-e-Millat (banned) founder Asiya Andrabi.\(^{177}\) Asiya Andrabi was arrested by India’s National Investigation Agency in July 2018 along with her two aides Sofi Fehmeeda and Naheeda for ‘waging war against India’. She is currently in jail for her activities and supporting militancy in Kashmir.\(^{178}\)

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\(^{171}\) [http://www.sapulse.com/new_comments.php?id=A7981_0_1_0_M]

\(^{172}\) [https://kashmirobserver.net/2015/05/15/isi-brigadier-who-gave-up-bin-laden-a-kashmir-%C2%A9hardliner%2C%20a-kashmir-killin/articleshow/47361568.cms]


\(^{174}\) [https://www.linkedin.com/in/awtar-singh-sekhon-dr-45943b22/?originalSubdomain=ca]

\(^{175}\) [http://thesikheducationaltrust.org/]

\(^{176}\) [https://www.amazon.com/India-Kills-Sikhs-Awatar-Sekhon/dp/0986803723]

\(^{177}\) [https://www.hindustantimes.com/india/warns-of-religious-extremis/story-aSkytgDQ4L8mDhji.html]

\(^{178}\) [https://indianexpress.com/article/india/nia-arrests-asiya-andrabi-sedition-waging-war-india-5249314/]
Other key co-authors/members of LISA in its early days of formation were VT Rajshekar, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh (Khalistani), Sami Malik (Director LISA), Abdullah Jan (Canada-based Pakistani journalist), Dr. M Abdul Mumin Chowdhury, and former APHC chairman Syed Ali Geelani (late).

One of the recent members of LISA UK has been Mary Flora Hunter, Postgraduate Research Fellow at the Centre for Army Leadership who formerly worked at LISA as a Researcher.179 Besides, she has also been the moderator of LISA’s events.180 She has also represented LISA in working with the Pak-backed organization, Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK (TeK UK). On February 24, 2021, Mary Hunter attended a webinar conference on Kashmiri Women's Resistance Day. Some of the key individuals at the online conference included former Senator of Australia, Lee Rhianon, Turgay Evren, Fahim Kayani (Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK founder), and Farhan Mujahid Chak (founder- of Kashmir Civitas).181

This was not the first time Mary Hunter was interacting with the same group. In December 2021, Mary attended the Russell Tribunal on Kashmir (RToK) event in Sarajevo which was co-organized by Kashmir Civitas along with the Muslim Brotherhood and Pakistan.182 183 Expect Mary to be the next White Activist on Kashmir and other stories.

179 https://cscr.pk/author/mary-hunter/
180 https://www.facebook.com/lisauk.org/photos/a.169623366476319/3946806018758016/
182 https://twitter.com/MaryFloraHunter/status/147329486409850882
183 https://thedisinfolab.org/muslim-brotherhoods-new-startup-kashmir/
## Contributors at LISA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bio</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Ghulam Nabi Fai</td>
<td>A convicted ISI agent was arrested in 2011 for receiving USD 3.5mn from the ISI between 1990-2009 for pursuing lobbying on Kashmir. He remains the fulcrum of key activities in Kashmir propelled by Pakistan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
184                                                                 |
| 3.    | Dr. Iqtidar Cheema        | Member of the United Nations Global Steering Committee. Also served as a consultant to the USCIRF between 2016-17. 185 Writes on Khalistan and seeks the formation of Khalistan under the UN charter. 186 |
| 4.    | Nayeema Ahmed Mahjoor     | Nayeema Ahmad mahjoor is a UK-based senior journalist, and ex-news editor in BBC and Penguin India author. Currently working as a columnist at Independent Urdu. 187 |
| 5.    | Ikram Ul Majeed Sehgal   | Pakistani defense analyst and security expert. He is a retired Pakistan Army officer. He became a prisoner of war in 1971 while serving in East Pakistan. He was the first Pakistani prisoner of war (PoW) to escape from the Indian PoW camp.  
188 Senior Adviser, Director, and Member Advisory Committee on CPEC Projects of the National Institute of Strategic Communication (NISC), Peking University, China. 189 |
| 6.    | Rishikesh Kumar          | A New Delhi-based journalist specializing in the Indo-Pacific region. Currently the Senior Editor of Sputnik International (India Desk). 190 |
| 7.    | Saad Rasool              | Lahore-based Lawyer and author at The Global Village Space and Pakistan’s ‘The Nation.’ 191 192 |
| 8.    | Islamuddin Sajid         | Islamabad-based journalist currently working as Regional Chief Correspondent at Anadolu Agency for Asia-Pacific. Also worked for TRT World as Deputy News Editor in Istanbul and also worked as a correspondent of ‘Voice of America and Bureau Chief of ‘Capital TV’. 193 |

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184 https://www.linkedin.com/in/hammadsarfraz/?originalSubdomain=pk
185 https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-iqtidar-cheema-fcmi-1755339b/?originalSubdomain=uk
186 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EB0Ne9PYGHo
187 https://twitter.com/nayeema1
189 https://www.forum.org/agenda/authors/ikram-u-majeed-sehgal
190 https://sputniknews.com/author_rishikesh_kumar/
191 https://www.globalvillagespace.com/author/saad-rasool/
193 https://www.linkedin.com/in/islamuddin-sajid-39509512y?originalSubdomain=pk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9. | Sarwan Ram Darapuri (ex-IPS) | Indian social activist, politician, and ex-IPS officer. He is the National Secretary and the Spokesman of the All-India People's Front (Radical).  
| 11. | Pepe Escobar | Brazilian journalist and geopolitical analyst. He was one of the attendees of the Russell Tribunal on Kashmir (RToK) that was held in December 2021, in Sarajevo.  
| 12. | Germán Gorraiz López | A political analyst who writes on economic and geopolitical issues for various publications in the US and UK. |
| 13. | Rana Ayyub | Eminent Indian Journalist |
| 14. | Barkha Dutt | Eminent Indian Journalist |
| 15. | MK Bhadrakumar | Former Diplomat |
Chapter 15: Dalitstan Purpose- Breaking India

So far, we saw how VT Rajshekar’s Dalt Voice was roped in by Dalitstan in its early years of formation. Dalitstan claimed to be a human rights organization working for the cause of Dalits and black untouchables of India and advocating for them with any 'non-violent means', among several such objectives mentioned on its website. 196 197 However, what it did not mention was how it envisaged the entities and websites that sought a fragmentation of India into several states/ nations.

Note:
Dalitstan on its website claimed that it didn't claim responsibility for the links posted on its directory and that the owners of those external links sites were solely responsible. 198 However, a separate section of 'secessionist links'; all intending to pitch the idea of a 'Breaking India' project was somehow posted systematically under a separate and specific section! Why?

Dissecting the 'Secessionist sites' page of Dalitstan, the page not only promoted the rebel groups but also sold the idea of separate Indian states such as 'Marathastan'; 'Free Gujarat', 'Separate Tripura'; 'Assam Independence'; & 'Manipuri Independence'. At the same time, they also cast the idea of how the Indian occupation had occupied these territories by force.

Some of the separatist groups echoed by Dalitstan were the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), Tripura People's Democratic Front (TPDF)- the political wing of the banned group All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), and Rajputana Liberation Front among other such groups. 199

List of states that were intended to become independent states from India

Among those were four major yet bigger plans by cutting out a larger portion of Indian land and dividing the Indian territory which is as follows: **Kashmir, Khalistan, Mughalastan, and Islamestan.**

A. Kashmir

Kashmir is one of the oldest and most delicate fault lines in India. Having said that, it was a natural inclusion in the secession plan of India. The websites endorsed for Kashmir on the Dalistan website were either being run from the United Kingdom (UK) or Pakistan and the content posted on them was Pakistan’s typescript on the Kashmir agenda.200

Likewise, the website referred to a list of go-to internet resources on Kashmir. The list of websites/ entities/ individuals mentioned in the list included Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) the UK, JKLF (Kashmir), Ghulam Nabi Fai (Kashmir American Council), Kashmir Canadian Council (KCC), World Kashmir Freedom Movement (WKFM). 201
It was the time when Ghulam Nabi Fai and Mohammed Ayyub Thakur were proactively working as ISI operatives from the US and UK respectively.

Another key secessionist website was being run from Pakistan: Jihad-e-Kashmir (www.jihad-e-kashmir.org.pk). Jihad-e-Kashmir was a publishing house that published and circulated monthly children’s magazine MUJAHID and books written on ‘Independence struggle going on in Kashmir’. 202 The company and website were being operated from Address- Al-Ikram Building, Muree Chowk, Muree Road, Rawalpindi, Pakistan. 203

Al-Ikram building is the hub of radical groups that embark on the mission of denting India. One such group that operates from the Al Ikram building is Al-Badr, a terror outfit based in Pakistan. 204 Al Badr is one of the member organizations of UJC. Al Badr was formed in 1998 to liberate Kashmir from India and its merger with Pakistan. Al Badr has been behind numerous terrorist attacks in India including the Pulwama attack in 2018. 205

The Pakistani propaganda on Kashmir was referred to on Dalitstan not just once but in several instances. The idea was to spread the Pakistani narrative on Kashmir and it was then, that the role of the US-Jamaat came into play. The books section on Kashmir on Dalitstan secessionist page referred to a new website ‘Sound Vision’. 206

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As elaborated in "The Longest War - Operation Tupac", Sound Vision and its advocacy wing Justice For All (JFA) are the key Jamaat organization that operates on not one but several fault lines of India. Sound Vision was founded by the US-Jamaat arm Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) in 1988 as its multimedia wing to promote “Islamic teachings in the United States and Canada.” 207 The founder of Sound Vision, i.e., Abdul Malik Mujahid is a Pakistani national who served as the head of Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba, the oldest student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami (Pakistan), between October 1975 and September 1977. He later went on to head the ICNA in the 1980-90s.

Sound Vision through its website took the Pakistani stance and demonized the Indian occupation in Kashmir while ignoring the cross-border terrorism and militancy sponsored by Pakistan in Kashmir. 208 Likewise, it is also to be noted that Sound Vision’s advocacy group-Justice For All (JFA), which currently strives by targeting Indian fault lines, was also peddling the Pakistani toolkit and organizations on Kashmir. 209

Among many other pro-Pakistani groups in Kashmir, was Pakistan Students Association International (PSAI), a students’ lobbying group which via forming a committee- the External Relations Committee (ERC) lobbied for promoting the interests of Pakistan abroad. One of the founding members of PSAI was Omar Khalid, a mechanical engineer who completed his education in Lahore and then from Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey. 210 His website, 'Paradise on Fire‘ was one of the key websites endorsed by Dalitstan for Kashmir secession. 211

207 https://www.icna.org/about-us/

56
Omar Khalid played a crucial role in campaigning for Pakistan and on Kashmir against India abroad, the toolkit of which was being sent by the Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC via postal mail to PSAI-ERC members.  

B. Khalistan

Khalistan movement is a separatist movement concocted by the ISI with Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan in 1971. The Khalistan movement sought a separate sovereign state for Sikhs cut out from various states of North India. From time to time, ISI has attempted to revive the Khalistan movement to cause unrest in India. Dalitstan endorsed several organizations and websites active in the Khalistan secession movement such as Babbar Khalsa International and the Council of Khalistan. Formed in 1978, Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) was one of the most violent Khalistani groups behind several militant insurgencies including the 1985 Air India flight bomb blast that killed 329 civilians. BKI is one of the many militant groups banned by the government of India under section 35 of the UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1967.

Another key website listed & promoted as a part of Dalitstan’s secessionism plan was ‘Council of Khalistan’. The Council of Khalistan is an ethnic organization

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215 https://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=82216&page=1
216 https://www.mha.gov.in/banned-organisations
that sought a separate land of Khalistan from various states of India. The organization was set up by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who was a research scientist based in the US. He was declared the President of the Council of Khalistan in 1986. Gurmit Singh Aulakh lobbied the US politicians for targeting India and also for the separate land of Khalistan. Aulakh was among the 169 names that were blacklisted by the Government of India for their anti-India operations including militancy.

Aulakh’s ‘Council of Khalistan’ website too got technical assistance from the conspiracy theorist Syed Adeeb, who helped in backlinking, and promoting the former’s website through his InformationTimes.

C. Mughalastan

The purpose behind the Mughalastan website was to impart the idea of the creation of Mughalastan among the South Asian Muslims with the following objectives:

a. Self Determination & Decline of the Indian union
b. 300 million Muslims already lived on the land proclaimed by the creators of the Mughalastan website.
c. Restoration of the Caliphate & Revival of Civilization
d. Pan Islamism
e. Historical Justice

Mughalastan was one of the comprehensive plans to seize and break and cause the second partition of India. To go about the plan, a map of India was created with the portion of North India spanning to Eastern states and Bangladesh as part of Mughalastan. As per the former IG BSF VK Gaur, the map was created by the Mughalastan Research Institute (MRI), of Jahangir Nagar University (Bangladesh) under the patronage of two intelligence agencies, Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Bangladesh’s Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI). Bangladesh National Party Chairperson Khalida Zia along with the ISI operatives in Bangladesh was also behind the planning of Mughalastan.

Hezb-e-Mughalastan was a Pak-based party dedicated to the liberation of Mughalastan. However, the idea of Mughalastan has been denounced and deemed as a creation of fiction.

217 https://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Gurmit_Singh_Aulakh
222 http://fotw.fivestarflags.com/pk%7D.html
One More Toolkit: Mughalastan

A toolkit was designed for the cause and propagation of the idea of the Mughalastan movement.\(^{224}\) The toolkit contained the guidelines, if unleashed could prove effective in running online campaigns, protests, writing to politicians, and many other ways to pursue the agenda against the Indian state. Some of them included:

- Writing to Politicians
- Lobbying the politicians
- Forum discussions of various news platforms
- Mass Emailing
- Anonymous Posting
- Newsgroups
- Hacking
- Impersonation of identities (impersonating a Dalit Sena member, a Tamil separatist, a Bengali secessionist, etc.,)

Jihad-e-Mughalastan

Apart from the toolkit, the website of Mughalastan also glorified Al-Qaeda Chief, Osama bin Laden and Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Masood Azhar who called waging war against India.\(^{225}\) \(^{226}\) Jihad-e-Mughalastan was one the key proponent of the Mughalastan movement. It aimed to aim wage war to restore the Mughal caliphate. For that, the website promoted various militant groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), and United Jihad Council (UJC).\(^{227}\)

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United Jihad Council/ Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC) is an offensive Islamist umbrella group formed by the Pakistani Army and comprising several militant terror groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen, and Al-Badr, among several such groups.\(^{228}\) UJC was formed in 1994 under the aegis of Manzur Shah, leader of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen as a part of Pakistan’s Operation Tupac.\(^{229}\)

As of May 2019, UJC was headed by Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin.\(^{230}\) In March 2022, India’s National Investigative Agency (NIA) ordered framing charges against Syed Salahuddin among others under various sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) including criminal conspiracy, waging war against the country, and carrying out terror activities in Jammu & Kashmir.\(^{231}\)

UJC has claimed responsibility for several attacks in India. In 2016, UJC claimed responsibility for carrying out the Pathankot Airbase attack that saw seven security personnel and five militants dead.\(^{232}\) On August 8, 2021, the NIA raided 14 districts in Jammu & Kashmir including the premises of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami J&K. It was reported at that time that Jamaat-e-Islami, J&K was intrinsically linked with the United Jihad Council (UJC).\(^{233}\)

\(^{228}\) https://irp.fas.org/world/para/mjc.htm
UJC and United States of Islam

One of the aims of the UJC was to work on a 100-year plan of creating a new world order by creating the United States of Islam (USI). The website to guide the formation of USI was being run from Pakistan. 234 The other objective of UJC was to form a confederation of all the Islamic countries in the world on the grounds of trade, commerce, economics, foreign policy, defense, and security issues. 235

![The map of the United State of Islam](image)

To pursue the cause, a plan was also formulated which included upgrading the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to the Organization of Islamic Unity (OIU), followed by creating a Muslim Parliament or General Assembly of the Islamic nations. 236

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Supporters of Shariah

Another key entity part of the Mughalastan project against India was the 'Supporters of Shariah', purported as a jihad organization based in the Pakistani part of Mughalastan.\(^ {237} \) Supporters of Shariah (SOS) was formed in 1994 by Abu Hamza al-Masri (who went by various alias such as Abu Hamza aka Mostafa Kamel Mostafa aka Mustafa Kamel), an Egyptian cleric and former Imam of Finsbury Park Mosque, London.\(^ {238} \) The office of SOS was also located at the same address i.e., at the Finsbury Park Mosque.\(^ {239} \) He has a history of inciting violence of hatred and supporting terrorism in the US and the UK.\(^ {240} \) While Hamza promoted the ideology and cause of Al Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden, his website SOS published the speeches of the latter.\(^ {241} \)

In an interview in 2002, Abu Hamza heaped praise on Al Qaeda for carrying out the 9/11 attack.\(^ {242} \) In 2004 he was arrested by the British Police after the US proved that Hamza was part of the conspiracy and he knowingly provided material support to Al Qaeda.\(^ {243} \) He was again convicted in 2014 after 11 terrorism charges were levied on him for enabling hostage-takers in the Yemen kidnapping to speak

\(^ {237} \) https://web.archive.org/web/20010331084834/http://mughalstan.freeyellow.com/
\(^ {238} \) https://web.archive.org/web/20000831081400/http://www.ummah.net/sos/aboutsos.htm
\(^ {239} \) https://web.archive.org/web/20010602034747/http://www.supportersofshariah.org/index1.html
\(^ {240} \) https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-11701269
\(^ {241} \) https://scholarship.tricolib.brynmawr.edu/bitstream/handle/10066/15238/CEB.20000622.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
\(^ {242} \) https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/search/interviews/almasri.html
\(^ {243} \) https://www.justice.gov/archive/usao/nys/pressreleases/October12/ChargingDocs/Mustafa%20Mustafa%20Indictment.pdf#page=7
on a satellite phone, sending men to establish an al-Qaida training camp in Bly, Oregon, and sending at least one man to training camps in Afghanistan. Subsequently, he was imprisoned for life in January 2015 after pleading guilty to all the charges.

A section of Dalistian promoted several organizations and individuals that were active on the Kashmir line from different countries. Some of the names included Muzzamml Ayyub Thakur, Hafsa Kanjal, Majid Rasool Butt, and Yusuf Fazili among others who are working on the Kashmir conflict from the US/UK.

We noted earlier in “Kashmir: A Conflict Industry” how the likes of Hafsa Kanjal and Muzzamml Ayyub Thakur were being groomed to become carry the baton of the Kashmir conflict. Since her early 20s, Hafsa Kanjal was being groomed by the ISI and Pakistan embassy eco-system. She was directly groomed by the ISI convict Ghulam Nabi Fai and also by the Pakistani Embassy in Washington.

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244 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/19/abu-hamza-found-guilty-terrorism-charges
250 https://www.pakistanlink.org/Community/2006/Nb/06/03/07/HIM
251 https://www.pakistanlink.org/Community/2006/Nb/06/03/07/HIM
Dalitstan Secessionist Links

**Promoted by:** Kashif ul Huda

**Dalitstan**

**Secessionist Sites**

**Mughalastan**
- **Mughalastan Nation**
  - Brain-child of ISI
- **Jihad-e-Mughalastan**
  - Jihad for Caliphate
- **Mughalastan Research Institute**
  - Created Secessionist Map of India
- **Hezb-e-Mughalastan**
  - Cyber Army Toolkit
    - Anonymous Posting
    - Write to Politicians
    - Lobbying Politicians
    - Impersonation

**Islamestan**
- **Lashkar-e-Talba**
  - Part of
- **United Jihad Council**
  - Part of Op. Tupac
  - Head - Syed Salahuddin
  - Member of Al-Badr

**Kashmir**
- **Kashmir Books**
  - Sound Vision
  - Founder
- **Abdul Malik Mujahid (Pakistani)**
  - Jihad-e-Kashmir
  - Same address as
- **Pakistan Govt. Website**
  - Paknews.pk

**Khalistan**
- **Listed**
- **Council of Khalistan**
- **Website created by**
- **Syed Adeeb**
  - Digitized
- **Dalit Voice**

**International Resources**
- Kashmiri American Council
- Kashmiri Canadian Council
- Ghulam Nabi Fai
- JKLF
- All Party Hurryat Conference
Chapter 16: John Dayal and United Christian Forum

Dalitstan’s website has a section dedicated to Christians and once clicked on the ‘Christians’ section, redirected to the website of ‘United Christian Forum for Human Rights (UCFHR)’. UCFHR is a New Delhi-based NGO founded by Alan Basil de Lastic, the former Archbishop of Delhi. A key individual who was instrumental in the formation of UCFHR is John Dayal, a Christian activist, journalist, and author. John is the Editor and CEO of the afternoon newspaper Delhi Mid-Day and has been the Treasurer of the Editor’s Guild of India. He is also the national convener of UCFHR.

Additionally, John is also the Secretary-General of the All-India Christian Council (AICC), a nationwide alliance of Christian organizations, institutions, and federations formed in 1998. AICC also has a US arm in the form of Dalit Freedom Network (DFN) which grew out of the former to expand its work for the Dalit cause in the US.

John Dayal and his US network

John Dayal also manages a network of his own in the US. John Dayal was once on the advisory board of a US-based organization Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA). FIACONA is one of the ally organizations of JFA and IAMC and co-organizes congressional briefings with them.
Apart from that, John’s AICC has been able to interact with and influence the former US Congressman of the Republican party, Joseph Russell Pitts. A four-member delegation of the US Congressmen visited Gujarat on January 9, 2004. The India tour of the delegation was organized by John Dayal’s organization AICC. The leader of the delegation during the tour was Joseph Pitts who emphasized reporting about the anti-conversion laws in India and the situation of Dalits and minorities in India.  

**Full Circle: From Dalistan to Kashmir - Joe Pitts**

The same four-member delegation had also visited Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir two days ago i.e., on January 7, 2004, and called for the resolution of the longstanding Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan. Joe Pitts is known to be a pro-Pak voice on Capitol Hill and has been instrumental in calling out for a resolution on Kashmir on behalf of Pakistan. In 2004, Pitts received contributions from two ISI agents for his election campaign for the fifth term in the House. According to the Federal Election Commission, Friends of Joe Pitts received funds from the convicted ISI-mole Ghulam Nabi Fai and his straw donor Zaheer Ahmad. In October 2004, Pitts introduced a resolution calling for a

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258 https://lancasteronline.com/news/pitts-tied-to-two-agents-involved-in-alleged-pakistani-plot/article_4e2d5872-e7ca-5f72-9d20-e8f0be0f93e.html
259 https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/253434-kac-affidavit
peaceful resolution to the Kashmir conflict that further sought the US government’s involvement in the matter.\textsuperscript{260}

**John Dayal and Human Rights Commission**

John Dayal and Joe Pitts continued to work together in 2014. On April 4, 2014, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission organized a hearing on the rights and freedoms of religious minorities in India. The hearing was organized ahead of India’s general elections and co-hosted by Joe Pitts.\textsuperscript{261} Key witnesses who led the charge in the hearing comprised former USCIRF Vice Chair Katrina Lantos Swett, John Sifton from Human Rights Watch (regularly seen on the IAMC platform), and Robin Phillips, Executive Director of Advocates for Human Rights. During the forum, Dayal asked the US congress to *take cognizance of the persecution of religious minorities in India.*\textsuperscript{262} \textsuperscript{263} One of the key organizations to have welcomed the panel hearing was the Coalition Against Genocide (CAG), which was co-founded by IAMC founder Shaik Ubaid & Angana Chatterji (a close associate of ISI-mole Ghulam Nabi Fai).\textsuperscript{264}

Incidentally, Joe Pitts was in tandem with CAG and even appeared publicly with the organization on December 5, 2012. \textsuperscript{265}

\textsuperscript{260} https://lancasteronline.com/news/pitts-tied-to-two-agents-involved-in-alleged-pakistani-plot/article_4e02e5972-c7ca-5f72-9e20-e8f0a2e0a93e.html
\textsuperscript{261} https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/events/hearings/plight-religious-minorities-india
\textsuperscript{263} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpaao3lbxy8
\textsuperscript{264} http://www.coalitionagainstgenocide.org/
\textsuperscript{265} https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcXthfXHu8
Chapter 17: Dalitstan Redux

Looking at the secessionist links page of the Dalitstan website, one could understand how big the plot must be to divide India into different fragments by invoking separatist movements and even listing toolkits. However, its separatism agenda was put to a halt by the government of India within a few years of its existence. Dalitstan website was among the 18 websites that were banned by the Department of Information Technology following the July 11, 2006, Mumbai train bombings in a bid to check the terror and hate messages.266 It was after the Government of India banned the Dalitstan website, that several organizations on the Dalit line mushroomed in the US. One of the key entities identified is Bhajan Singh Bhinder’s OFMI. OFMI was formed by the Khalistani ISI operative Bhajan Singh Bhinder and his lackey Pieter Friedrich in 2006-07, purportedly for the cause of the Indian minorities including Dalits.267 The organization was shut down after it was exposed by an OSINT Lab!

Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA)

Another organization on the Dalit line that popped in the US on June 5, 2008, was the Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA).268 As per its website, AANA aims to uplift the lives of people who belong to the underprivileged castes in India and educate them about it in the US and Canada.269 One of the former presidents of AANA has been Thenmozhi Soundarajan, before forming Equality Labs in 2016.270

Fun Fact:
Ambedkar Association of North America (AANA) felicitated Jamanadas (who facilitated the communication between Helen Eklund and Dalit Voice (VT Rajshekar).271

Dalitnation: Dalistan Re-Born

A decade later after the formation of Dalitstan, and its subsequent ban in India, a new website pops up with the name Dalitnation with its domain registered on September 27, 2011.272 Dalitnation began as the transmedia and blog site of the ‘Dalit History Month’ project which was later launched under the banner of Equality Labs. Dalitnation was essentially the English play on the previous organization.

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266 https://web.archive.org/web/20130521095335/http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2006-07-19/india/27816956_1_govt-blocks-check-terror-websites 267 https://www.ofmi.org/page-with-sidebar/ 268 https://cofs.lara.state.mi.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?token=nBxILn58HwVtv4JMRDwTm1cWbqpgmsLcGF0zqRM4Z0nRkdeXCLWf0d2Gq5mwhw/WEF3LO8heuo4l000f1dvuc4ePvO7/s/GP GunnlY0mJ8Y/IP858675czhh/BMyp98y4wQQqMcGl4M4Uy45wbcv/ujuf5275/yv u3f50ZLJ2/y7m9O7sEsFHF4VuWXijx8p3l6beBuux5F48/Mkmzqjg51251r9dT0rbQbJqJz9y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7y7l 269 https://aanausa.org/about-us/ 270 https://www.shethepeople.tv/news/who-is-thenmozhi-soundarajan/ 271 https://twocircles.net/2016jun14/1465887733.html 272 https://who.is/whois/dalitnation.com
Dalitstan website’s older versions had already hinted at becoming Dalitnation. However, it later remained Dalitstan until the website was blocked in India in 2006.

As per one of the old archives of the website, Dalitnation was the blog of Thenmozhi Soundarajan. And the people associated with it were EL’s Research Director Maari Zwick Maitrey alias Valli Karunakaran, Christian Dalit activist Christina Dhanraj, Aruna Sanghapali, and Human rights lawyer, Manisha Mashaal.

**It’s a full circle**

The same set of network operates in a full circle. Same faces that promoted Dalitstan back in early 2000s were operating through web portals. Jamnadas Khobragade, who facilitated the communication between Dalitstan founder Helen Eklund and VT Rajshekar was a bridge for Dalit movement in India.

Presently, his daughter-in-law, Sangeeta Khobragade is associated with an international Dalit organization, Ambedkar International Mission (AIM). AIM was founded in Texas, USA by Rajkumar Daulatrao Kamble (late), an NRI-Ambedkarite and Chemical Engineer, who led AIM to expand in US, Canada, Japan, Middle East, and across Europe.

Working under him was Thenmozhi Soundarajan, who was associated with former’s organization Ambedkar.org. Thenmozhi was the member of Ambedkar.org which was duly promoted by Kashif’s IndianMuslims.info. Again, IndianMuslims.info was also promoting Dalitstan, a secessionist website to break India.

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275 https://www.dalitdastak.com/well-know-ambedkarite-rajkumar-kamble-no-more/
Now all these faces have become full-time activists and experts on operating all these fronts with Thenmozhi Soundarajan as one of the central individuals and duly promoted by the Jamaat fronts and Kashif Ul Huda.
Conclusion

Dalit Diva/ Equality Labs is following the same pattern that fronts like Polis Project, HfHR, IAMC, etc., have followed, copying the same method from the Jamaat/ Missionary playbook:

- Create innocuous-sounding fronts in the name of various rights groups
- Create ‘news sites’/ platforms – to provide OpEds
- Create Jury/ International Sounding fronts to give legitimacy to ‘activists’ and fronts
- Launch super-alliances

Wash and Repeat

Unfortunately, it seems that Jamaat has run out of individuals/ fronts, and is compelled to use and abuse the already exposed entities. After all, it takes time to create a façade. This will also explain the plethora of new awards and scholarships meant to account for fresh talent.

In a country like India, there will never be a dearth of such ‘talents’. However, the challenge would be to provide them with enough legitimate platforms to make them credible.

Another repeated trope has been the narrative, with only mild modifications. For example, during the first wave of such a campaign in the 1970s, the narratives were on the lines of Dalitstan – Khalistan – Kashmir – Mughalastan – Dravidstan. However, by now the new version of at least some of the stories have propped up – such as Dalit Nation – Kashmir – Khalistan – Dravidnadu.

Unfortunately, we are prone to play in the hands of our opponents – knowingly or unknowingly.