

**Refugee Review Tribunal  
AUSTRALIA**

**RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE**

**Research Response Number:** IND31704  
**Country:** India  
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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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**Questions**

- 1. Can you please advise when the Majlis Bachau Tahreek Party (MBT) was formed?**
- 2. Was it formed from within the ranks of the MIM?**

**RESPONSE**

- 1. Can you please advise when the MBT was formed?**
- 2. Was it formed from within the ranks of the Majlis Itehad Al Muslimeen Party (MIM)?**

The sources consulted indicate clearly that the Majlis Bachau Tehreek (MBT) was formed in 1993 from within the ranks of the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM). It was formed by a respected MIM member named Amanullah Khan, who reportedly felt that the MIM had departed from its original ideals, and that the party lacked internal democracy. The name “Majlis Bachau Tehreek” means “Save Majlis Movement”. Amanullah Khan died in 2002 but the party still exists, and reportedly still holds a very small number of seats in the Hyderabad municipal government.

A 2002 report from *The Hindu* on the death of Amanullah Khan provides a brief history of the formation of the MBT:

A firebrand leader, Amanullah Khan joined the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen in 1960. He contested from the Chandrayangutta Assembly segment for the first time in 1978 and won against the Congress nominee, K. Baliah. From then onwards there was no looking back. Amanullah Khan retained the seat continuously for five terms. His winning spree was broken in 1999 when Akbaruddin Owaisi of the Majlis trounced him.

**Amanullah Khan, who was a trusted lieutenant of the Majlis supremo, Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, parted ways in 1993 protesting against lack of internal democracy in**

**the party. Subsequently, he formed the Majlis Bachao Tehreek (Save Majlis Movement).** Later, he launched a campaign against his bete noire over the Babri Masjid demolition ('MBT chief Amanullah Khan dead' 2002, *The Hindu*, 11 November <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/2002/11/11/stories/2002111104620400.htm> – Accessed 3 May 2007 – Attachment 1).

A 2001 *Hindu* report provides further details on the 1993 split and subsequent relations between the “arch rival” parties, on the occasion of local elections in Hyderabad:

For Mr. Amanullah Khan's MBT it is a do or die battle, a last ditch attempt to salvage some prestige. Smarting from the crushing defeat inflicted by the Majlis' fledgling legislator, Mr. Akabruddin Owaisi, the veteran leader is expected to extract a revenge. In at least 40 wards in the Old City pitched battles are expected between the Majlis factions. The war drums are already rolling in the divisions under Chandrayangutta, Charminar, Yakutpura, Karwan, Asifnagar and ward 16 of Malakpet Assembly segments.

Mr. Khan, who represented the Chandrayangutta Assembly constituency for 22 years, tasted defeat for the first time in 1999 when Mr. Akbaruddin Owaisi trounced him by a margin of 12,000 votes.

**The senior leader parted ways with the Majlis after a confrontation with the Majlis supremo, Mr. Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi, at a public meeting at Phoolbagh in April 1993. Later, he was expelled from the party. But before this he was replaced as the floor leader in the Assembly with Mr. Ibrahim Bin Abudllah Masquati. Subsequently, Mr. Khan formed the MBT or the Save Majlis Movement and went to town with a blistering attack on the Majlis leadership.**

The reasons that prompted him to quit Majlis still remains. Mr. Khan still feels there is no internal democracy in the Majlis and never tires of accusing Mr. Salahuddin Owaisi with “betrayal” on the Babri Masjid issue. The Congress struck a deal with the Majlis whereby the Deccan Medical College was given recognition by the Medical Council of India and in return Mr. Owaisi chose to keep mum over the Babri Masjid demolition. That's what the MBT leader says even to this day.

During the 1994 Assembly polls, Mr. Khan reaped rich dividends. He retained not just his Chandrayangutta seat but also managed to wrest the Yakutpura seat from the Majlis. But in the 1999 election the Majlis bounced back and trounced Mr. Khan in his own stronghold.

During the last two years, Mr. Khan is keeping a low profile, confining himself to organising the annual bandh on December 6, the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary.

“People think the MBT is a spent force. Just because we have no representation in the Assembly it doesn't mean we are finished. The civic polls will show”, asserts the veteran of several battles.

Mr. Khan feels that since 1999 the MBT's ratings have gone up. Reason – the non-performance of the Majlis. The AP Transco raids and arrests in the Old City have alienated the people from the Majlis as the latter did nothing to mitigate their suffering. On the other hand, the MBT intervened and stopped the raids at several places. “The masses are with us though we are out of power”, says Mr. Khan.

The Majlis, however, dismisses the MBT of being a party with little consequence. The Majlis leader, Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi, doesn't think the MBT is a force to reckon with (Ifthekhar, J.S. 2001 'Battle royale between MIM, MBT', *The Hindu*, 31 December

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/2001/12/31/stories/2001123103090300.htm> – Accessed 3 May – Attachment 2).

A 2001 report by the *Times of India* on the municipal elections confirms that the MBT was formed in 1993 ('MBT, MIM in straight fight' 2001, Times City website, 16 November <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/7550617.cms> – Accessed 3 May 2007 – Attachment 3).

The Wikipedia entry on the MBT provides further information on the party since the death of Amanullah Khan, stating that various people by the name of "Khan", at least one of whom is a son of Amanullah Khan, are still involved or have been involved in the recent past:

In Lok Sabha election 2004 MBT launched another son of Khan, Majidullah Khan, in the Hyderabad constituency (as a countercandidate against the AIMIM candidate Asaduddin Owaisi). Khan received 47 560 votes (4,78% of the votes in that constituency). Most of the votes came from the Chandrayangutta area, where Khan got 28,746 votes (20,6% of the votes in that area).

MBT has two out of a hundred seats in the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. Amjadullah Khan is one of the corporators.

In the Andhra Pradesh state legislative assembly elections 2004. MBT had launched seven candidates, out of whom five contested against AIMIM candidates. No MBT candidate was elected.

Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, member of the legislative assembly on behalf of AIMIM, was a member of MBT until 1999 ('Majlis Bachao Tehreek' 2007, Wikipedia website, 21 March [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majlis\\_Bachao\\_Tehreek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Majlis_Bachao_Tehreek) – Accessed 3 March 2007 – Attachment 4).<sup>1</sup>

The MBT website at <http://mbt.8m.com//mbt123.html> provides a small amount of information on the party. It contains photographs of leaders: Amanullah Khan, also called Ghazi-e-Millat; Quaid-e-Millat Nawab Bahadur Yar Jung; Wizarat Rasool Khan; and Mohd. Amjadullah Khan Khalid. Of the party, it states:

Majlis Bachao Tehreek is a dynamic movement working for the political, educational and economical empowerment of the Indian Muslims. It has a brilliant record in public service which is free from any corruption. MBT strives for the unity of the Muslim Ummah and as a goodwill gesture has unilaterally withdrawn its candidate from the Hyderabad Parliamentary Constituency ('Majlis Bachao Tehreek' (undated), Majlis Bachao Tehreek website <http://mbt.8m.com//mbt123.html> – Accessed 3 May 2007 – Attachment 5).

Question 1 of a recent RRT Research Response contains information on the MIM and the MBT, drawing on material from *The Hindu*, *The Times of India*, and the Election Commission of India. Topics covered include: clashes between MIM and MBT workers in 2004; disagreement over party symbols before a 2004 by-election; the strong performance of the MIM in the 2004 state assembly elections, where it won four seats, and the weak

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<sup>1</sup> Users should be aware that [Wikipedia](#) is a Web-based free-content encyclopaedia which is written collaboratively by volunteers. Country Research recommends that users of Wikipedia familiarise themselves with the regulatory practices which Wikipedia employs as a preventative measure against vandalism, bias and inaccuracy.

performance of the MBT, which won none; a 2005 statement by the MBT calling for a realignment of socio-political forces in the state based on social justice; and a joint action by the MIM, the MBT and other parties in Hyderabad in protest at a state visit by US President George Bush (RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response IND30680*, 24 October – Attachment 6).

### **Background information on the MIM**

The following reports do not discuss the MBT split, but provide background information on the MIM which may be of use.

A recent RRT Research Response provides information on the MIM and its history, including its relationship with the BJP. It states that the party holds effective political power only in and around Hyderabad, and that its members have been elected to all three levels of government, national, state and municipal (RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response IND30424*, 15 August – Attachment 7).

A November 2006 report from the pro-MIM website Hyderabadonline gives an assessment of the current strength of the MIM:

With a Member representing Hyderabad in the Lok Sabha, five members in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, 40 corporators in Hyderabad and 95-plus members elected to various municipal bodies in Andhra Pradesh, the All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen is one of the foremost representatives of the States Muslims and the most powerful Muslim party in India and one can see the party's strength if he goes to Hyderabad and Parts of Muslim Dominated Villages of Andhra Pradesh ('The History Of Majlis E Ittehadul Muslimeen Party In Andhra Pradesh, India' 2006, Hyderabadonline, 11 November [http://www.nowpublic.com/the\\_history\\_of\\_majlis\\_e\\_ittihadul\\_muslimeen\\_party\\_in\\_andhra\\_pradesh\\_india](http://www.nowpublic.com/the_history_of_majlis_e_ittihadul_muslimeen_party_in_andhra_pradesh_india) – Accessed 3 May 2007 – Attachment 8).

A 2003 report from *The Hindu* comments:

Despite remarkable economic prosperity and negligible communal violence in the past decade, the hold of the Majlis on the Muslims of Hyderabad remains, despite minor dents. And despite widespread allegations of Majlis leaders having "made money", most ordinary Muslims continue to support them because, as one bank executive put it "they represent our issues clearly and unambiguously" ('Holding them captive?' 2003, *The Hindu*, 27 April <http://www.thehindu.com/thehindu/2003/04/27/stories/2003042700081500.htm> – Accessed 26 April 2007 – Attachment 9).

The website of the "Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Youth Outfit" contains numerous reports of recent MIM activities, and photographs of prominent members.

<http://www.majlisittehadulmuslimeenwarriors.blogspot.com/>

The weblog of an expatriate Indian from Hyderabad contains a number of postings on the MIM which may be of some interest as background material.

<http://deccannews.sulekha.com/default.htm#brief>

### **List of Sources Consulted**

#### Internet Sources:

Website of the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Youth Outfit  
<http://www.majlisittehadulmuslimeenwarriors.blogspot.com/>

Google search engine

Factiva

Databases:

ISYS

CISNET

Library

*Political Handbook of the World 2000-2002*

### **List of Attachments**

1. 'MBT chief Amanullah Khan dead' 2002, *The Hindu*, 11 November  
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6. RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response IND30680*, 24 October.
7. RRT Country Research 2006, *Research Response IND30424*, 15 August.
8. 'The History Of Majlis E Ittehadul Muslimeen Party In Andhra Pradesh, India' 2006, Hyderabadonline, 11 November  
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