

**SPEECH OF HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN FULL
COURT REFERENCE HELD ON THE 8th SEPTEMBER,
2011 AT 3.00 P.M. RE THE BOMB BLAST ON 7.9.2011**

My esteemed peers on the Bench, Mr. A.S. Chandhiok, learned Additional Solicitor General of India and President, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. Rakesh Tiku, Chairman, Bar Council of Delhi, Mr.D.K. Sharma, Honorary Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association, Mr. P.H. Parekh, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Mr. Rakesh Khanna, Vice President, Supreme Court Bar Association, the executive members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association and learned members of the Bar.

Today we have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of the persons who, in a most unexpected turn of events, breathed their last yesterday, that is, 7.9.2011, which will be written as one of the saddest day in the human history. I call it the saddest as it is a day when the humanity in certain elements of society got incredibly and disastrously buried and justice, which is the most glorified aspiration of an orderly and civilized society, was attacked by taking recourse to a bomb blast near gate No.5 of the most cherished institution, the High Court of Delhi. The incident intended to paralyze the functioning of the High Court that dispenses justice without fear or favour but because of the total solidarity of the learned and courageous members of the Bar and my esteemed colleagues, the Court work functioned at 2:15PM.

I would like to apprise the learned members of the Bar that yesterday, the Full Court discussed the unfortunate and tragic incident of the bomb blast that occurred in the vicinity of the High Court premises, causing deaths and grievous injuries to the lawyers, staff members and the public at large. The Full Court condemned the cowardly act of carrying out the bomb explosion. The Full Court condoled the deaths and grievous injuries to the innocent persons and expressed solidarity. To combat and defeat the endeavours of the malcontents to disturb the smooth functioning of the High Court and other public institutions, it was decided to continue to work undeterred.

I must state with all humility at my command that the cooperation of the Bar, the litigant public and my peers is extremely laudable and I am sure the forces who want to de-stabilize the justice dispensation system and our sense of fraternity would never be successful as the solidarity between the Bench and the Bar is unshakeable and unshatterable and does not allow any dent to be created. I am absolutely certain that we shall stand in unity in all unexceptional circumstances and trying times.

The loss that has been caused to the families who have lost their kith and kin yesterday cannot be redeemed. The persons who have sustained injuries, their anguish and agony is difficult to assuage. We should and we do with highest respect express our deepest homage to the departed souls and condole for their bereavement in this tragic incident. We share our concern, sympathy and sentiments with the persons who have been injured.

We pray to the Almighty to allow the departed souls to rest in peace and beseech the Lord to bestow the bereaved families to endure the loss with courage and fortitude. We also pray to the Omnipresent that the victims of injury to regain normalcy and also to have the courage to bear the trauma.

The history shall stand testimony that all of us present here and the litigants who visit this Court faced the situation with bravery, courage and inflexible determination.

As a mark of respect to the departed souls, we shall observe silence for two minutes.

Chief Justice
08.09.2011