

bazar. Mr. Metcalfe while entering the Thana fell on the steps owing to nervousness, and a side of his face struck the edge of the step and he became senseless for a minute or two. On recovering, he got up and went in. He again came out and gave some orders in English, on which the troops commenced firing.

31-5-30

(Sd.) MOHMAD AKRAM

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

41

The statement of Abdul Latif, son of Mian Miran Aziz Ullah, age 24, occupation Leather Merchant, Residence Kohat

Partly on account of the arrests of the Congress Leaders and partly owing to the cruel policy of the State, such a censorship of things arose that the real facts were not known to the public and even the Central Committee was not informed. The oppression that was practised on the residents of Kohat was unique in the history of maladministration. I have the honour to submit to you in brief the summary of those incidents and I fervently hope that the incidents of Kohat, coupled with those of Peshawar, be put before the people at large, in order to show up the maltreatment by this "civilized" Government.

Beginning of Cruelty

On the morning of 11th and 12th May 1930, military soldiers were posted everywhere. All the Mohallas were blocked by the police and the Frontier Border Police. All the gates of the city of Kohat were blocked and most of the places were occupied by Machine Guns and Lewis Guns, a few houses having been vacated the soldiers were appointed as guards with telephone and other suitable arrangements. At 3 o'clock the arrests of the Congress Leaders and volunteers began which lasted till 7. In the morning of 12th May, leaders were put in the Fort and the volunteers were taken away to the city Police Cantonment Station. The shops remained closed for the whole day. Any man who happened to come out of his house was beaten with lathis. All the volunteers present in the Congress office were beaten severely. Consequently some ten volunteers were admitted into Hospital till the evening. Out of these two were seriously wounded. This day was the third day of the festival of Musalmans and the Musalmans had to perform their religious ceremony of sacrifice (Kurbani) but the shops and the lanes were closed and therefore they were not able to perform the prescribed religious ceremony.

Next Day

On the next day i.e. 13th May 1930, the shops remained closed as usual and the soldiers were instructed to keep a keen watch, and all the leaders having been sentenced were sent to Dera Ismail Khan and after that transferred to Bannu Jail. They have been placed in C Class, in spite of their being members of well-to-do families with a good reputation. The volunteers were sent to jail, the prosecution having obtained the remand for 15 days.

Third Day

On 14th May, at 12 a.m., the gates and shops were opened and the guards were removed and on 15th also the shops and gates remained open.

Revival of Tyranny

On 16th re-appeared the same scene of cruelty, and very cruel soldiers with strict instructions were posted. Special cruelties were perpetrated on the people residing in Mohalla Mian Khel and within the same category fell the following Mohallas and streets, namely Kochah Hari Singh, Deva Singh, Kochah Khazanchian and Fateh Khan Khel. The cause for this tyranny is the existence of the Congress workers in that Mohalla and the Government wanted to efface their existence. On this day also some of the Congress workers were sent to jail, including Maulvi Ahmad Gul, aged seventy. On this day the instruments of the so-called just Government performed wondrous deeds of cruelty. They did not content themselves with this cruelty, but also closed the water pipes in order to harass the public. Consequently the public had to face great difficulties and their cattle, owing to want of water, began to die in closed houses. There was no arrangement for their water or food either. According to my information many cows and buffaloes died.

Unlawful and Improper Show of Power

In the evening the Deputy Commissioner sent for the influential citizens and threatened them. It was demanded that they should present written documents and guarantees that there were no Congressmen in their Mohalla, nor would there be any in future. If they refused to write that, they would have to undergo all sorts of hardships. None would be allowed to go out and their cattle would die within the four walls of the houses owing to want of water. Some of the Mohalladars were frightened and submitted the required documents but the residents of Mian Khel refused to guarantee and told the Deputy Commissioner that they could never take the responsibility of that sort and that he was at liberty to arrest any Congressman whom he found. The same conditions prevailed on 17th and 18th May.

Obduracy of the Government

The bazars being closed for full three days, the provisions ran short. The poor wage earners and labourers who live on daily wages began to starve. The cattle were dying of starvation. Any man who went out of his house never returned safe, but was taken to the hospital wounded. The officers insisted on this policy of theirs and demanded an apology before the shops and gates were allowed to be opened. They also demanded that the public should guarantee that there was no Congressman in their respective Mohallas, or else that state of affairs would continue for six months. On 19th the same serious conditions prevailed.

Tyranny Carried to the Extreme

On 19th there happened an extraordinary event, which obviously showed that there was NO LAW AND ORDER, and if there was any, that was not meant for the Frontier Province. Though the case of the Congressmen was to come up on 29th, General Sahib reached there and ordered them either to beg pardon for having raised the cry of "Long Live Revolution," or be lashed or be prepared to undergo six months imprisonment. All the volunteers showed their willingness to undergo the imprisonment, but they were lashed. The number of those who were lashed was about 15 or 20. Most of those volunteers were weak and feeble and owing to that severe treatment, they requested that they should be pardoned.

Treachery

But later on a dirty trick was played upon them, the nature of which was this. The relatives and friends of these volunteers, who raised shouts and subsequently begged pardon, were informed that their arrested relations had asked for pardon and that they wanted to be released and that they should tender bails to take them away. The relations of those volunteers believed it and tendered bails. After two days the pardoned volunteers were let off with this pretext that they had repented and had promised not to take part in the Congress movement and that they had begged pardon for their former conduct although they all deny this.

The Danger of the Spread of Infection

It is said that the Civil Surgeon felt the apprehension of outbreak of disease because of the gate and bazars having been kept closed for four days. And he summoned the Chief Medical Officer for the inspection of the state of affairs. When he visited the city he found the conditions really fraught with danger. Heaps of animal dung had been collected in every house. The gate of the rampart having been shut, the dirt and filth of the city was lying in every house unremoved. Accordingly on his advice the

bazars etc. had to be opened and the military guard was withdrawn, otherwise the Deputy Commissioner did not wish it.

Congress Picketing on Liquor Shops

When the bazar was opened on the 20th, it was discovered that the Congress volunteers were picketing the liquor shops regularly. At about 10 o'clock a policeman, who was expecting a Sub-Inspectorship, assaulted one volunteer named Latif with a lathi four inches thick. He beat him so mercilessly that his body was besmeared with blood and an arm was broken. He fell down unconscious. After this he was dragged as he was unable to walk. This volunteer was so strong and healthy that had he not been taught to observe non-violence, he could have consigned four such policemen to perdition. But he bore all this trouble with great patience and silence.

Rumours

As long as the streets remained closed I heard different sorts of news which admit of no doubt. For example, the Superintendent of Police complained to the Sub-Inspectors that the attitude of the police towards the public was sympathetic and that this was the reason for his bad name. It is said that all this beating was given at his instigation. May God give him his deserts!

Matters Worth Enquiring

Will you kindly ask for explanations from the Frontier Government on the following:—

(1) Why and for inviting which invader was the Congress Committee of Kohat declared an unlawful body?

(2) Why were the Congress leaders who are respectable men of position put in the C class which is generally given to those guilty of moral turpitude?

(3) Why were the volunteers, who were to come up for trial in ten days, asked to beg pardon and why were they flogged?

(4) When they had been flogged, why were they asked to tender bail and ask for pardon? Why were they not let off?

(5) Those who apologised for raising cries, why was their apology accepted on all charges?

(6) Why was the city kept closed for five or six days? Why was the water supply cut off from Mian Khel street?

(7) Under what law were the volunteers beaten?

To the Chairman:—I have given a written statement. This is my statement.

Q. What is your property worth?

A. Some twenty-five thousand rupees or twenty-six thousand.

Previous to Mahatma Gandhi's movement of non-violence people were prone to bloodshed. Now, due to the Mahatmaji's movement, murders have decreased. Some hundred people were arrested in Kohat and have been imprisoned. Two or three picketing volunteers were belaboured. The military was in possession of the city for five or six days. Any one who came out of his house was beaten by the military. I did not recognize the beaten. I saw 15 men being beaten by the military. Twenty volunteers were flogged and jailed. Now there is quiet. Picketing has been stopped, because the picketing volunteers are beaten. I pay Rs. 200/- as income tax. The water supply was cut off for 3 days. We get water through pipes. The people in these three days took water from wells. Those who have no wells were supplied water from other houses. The Civil Surgeon is a Mohamedan. The Civil Surgeon told the District Magistrate that there was apprehension of the outbreak of pestilence. Therefore the bazars were opened. The following Congressmen of respectable position were arrested and they were put in C class.

(1) Pir Shah, President Congress Committee, Kohat, owns property worth Rs. 4,00,000 or Rs. 5,00,000.

(2) Mian Khair Mohammed owns property worth Rs. 1,50,000.

(3) Mian Ghulam Mohammed owns property worth Rs. 15,000.

(4) Sardar Gopal Singh owns property worth Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000.

It is the same Kohat where communal riots had occurred in 1924 and hundreds were done to death and a large portion of the town was set ablaze. Due to this non-violent movement there is perfect solidarity between Hindus and Muslims now.

31-5-30

(Sd.) ABDUL LATIF

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

42 & 43

The Statements of Mohammed Faiz Ulla Abbasi and Maksud Jan, B.A., LL.B., Pleader, Bannu

The civil disobedience on the principle of non-violence was started on 23rd April 1930. The picketing on liquor shops continued until 14th May 1930, without any hindrance from Government side. On 11th May 1930 the Frontier Government declared the Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha as unlawful assemblies. On 14th May 1930, the Government started the atro-

cities in Bannu, which are still perpetrated in Bannu District. The people are sticking to the principle of non-violence and have welcomed the violence on the side of the Government. The facts which we have seen with our own eyes are stated below.

(1) The city on 14th April 1930 was under military and police control. In the first raid the police occupied the Congress office and took away the uniforms of volunteers, durries, National Flag, tables and chairs, the photos of All India Leaders and other things; collected them at one place and burnt them. The papers and registers were packed in a gunny bag and were taken possession of by the Police. In the above act there were some loyalists who were helping the police.

(2) The members of the Congress War Council and Nau-jawan Bharat Sabha who were on the spot were arrested. About 40 arrests were made by the evening of 14th May 1930. Out of them there were about 20 leaders, who were sent to jail, and the others who were volunteers were released at 11 p.m., after intimidating them and giving them a good thrashing. The volunteers did not care for these empty threats and continued the picketing of liquor shops. On that day the leaders and volunteers were severely beaten and the Gandhi caps were snatched away by the police and were burnt in Gandhi Chowk.

(3) On the morning of 15th May 1930 a party came from the villages to picket the liquor shops. On that day also the Government carried on extreme repression. The volunteers picketing the shops were beaten mercilessly, their khaddar uniforms were torn and they were made stark naked and were dragged in that state. After taking them in this state, 30 or 40 yards, they left them. But the proud Afghans sticking to the principle of non-violence picketed the shops in the naked state. When the volunteers belonging to villages came to know of this, they arranged 3 Jathas consisting of stark naked volunteers and gave notice to the Government that if they made the khaddar clad volunteers naked, they would come in naked state to take their place. By this notice they wanted to impress upon the authorities that they could not excite the public to violence. This challenge made the Government nervous. This was the first victory of the Congress.

(4) One Sikh Congress worker, without any provocation, was beaten so mercilessly on 15th May 1930, that news of his death spread in the city and there was complete Hartal. The Hartal continued for 6 days. The Hartal was complete, and the Motors, Busses and Tongas also ceased plying. The said gentleman remained in a precarious state for some days and then recovered. He has come here to give evidence. In spite of the threat, the merchants affected by this merciless beating also closed their shops for 6 days. This was the second victory

of the Congress.

(5) In the city, the 'Danda Police' and Border Militia were patrolling the city till 11 p.m. and were committing atrocities. The gates and rampart were guarded by the Military and no one was allowed to go in or come out without the permit issued by the Deputy Commissioner. Even fodder was not available in the city and the animals were in a very miserable condition. Malik Akbar Ali Khan, an influential Rais of Bannu District, who was arrested on 15th May 1930, sent a message to his village, which is near the city to send Shaftal cultivated in 60 Kanals of his land at once. The villagers after cutting the Shaftal threw it from over the rampart. The citizens are very much thankful to Malik Sahib for this kindness. This sort of repression continued till the morning of 20th May 1930. On 20th May, 1930 the Gates opened and the Hartal came to an end. This was the third defeat of the Government.

(6) The police is responsible for the above-mentioned atrocities, because the Inspector-General of Police and the District Magistrate of Bannu were present there giving orders to do such acts.

(7) Inspite of the fact that Seditious Meetings Act is enforced, peaceful public meetings are being held in the whole district. The Government is devising plans to excite the villagers, but it has failed upto this time. This is the fourth defeat of the Government.

(8) Upto the evening of 29th May 1930, 63 arrests were made. The list of their names is attached herewith. Daily 5 or 6 arrests are made. At present the selected Rais, 'Alims' of the District, are arrested, none of the volunteers is arrested. There are thousands of volunteers in the District. If arrests go on at this rate, they will reach hundreds.

(9) According to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, the whole district has done the social boycott of the authorities. The propaganda of Khaddar and Spinning Wheel is intense. Congress Committees are being formed in different Ilaqas in the District. The Congress creed is known to each and every boy.

31-5-30

(Sd.) MOHAMAD FAIZULLA ABBASI

(Sd.) MAKSOOD JAN, B.A., LL.B.,

Pleader, Bannu

Read out to the witness and signed by him and Mohammed Faizulla Abbasi who is also present before the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

List of Persons Arrested

1. Sardar Ram Singh, B.A., imprisoned for 3 years, under

Section 124.

2. Hakim Abdul Rahim, under Section 40.
3. L. Som Dev, under Section 40.
4. Khan Habib Ullah Khan, Pleader, under Section 124.
5. Sheikh Sahib Haji Haqnawaz Khan, Dictator No. 1.
6. Khan Sahib Makrab Khan.
7. Mohammed Salim Khan, Commander.
8. Maulvi Gul Khoodadad, Secretary.
9. Mohammed Aslam Khan, Joint Secretary.
10. Khan Akbar Ali Khan Malik and Rais, 2nd Commander one year S. I. under Section 107.
11. Azad Khan, 2nd Dictator.
12. Haji Abdul Rahman, President.
13. Haji Amir Mukhtar, General.
14. Haji Sher Ali Khan.
15. Haji Zaman Khan, Commander Kaki.
16. Nur Khan.
17. Shaikh Ghulam Sarwar Mazoon.
18. Mohammed Ghulam Khan, Captain.
19. Shaikh Bahadur Nawab Khan, Captain.
20. Mohammed Yakub Khan, Lieutenant.
21. Vishva Mitter.
22. Lieut. Saadat Khan.
23. Shamlal Jathedar.
24. Chamanlal.
25. Keval Ram Pehlwan.
26. Lachhman Dass.
27. Das Ram.
28. Vishwa Dass.
29. Lieut. Chaman Lal, imprisoned for 6 months, under Section 177.
30. L. Thakur Dass, Vice-President.
31. Master Keval Ram.
32. Mangal Sen, Cashier.
33. Shahbaz Khan, 2nd Secretary, imprisoned for 6 months.
34. Abdul Samad Captain, Student's Union.
35. Maulvi Ghulam Sarwar.
36. Khan Malang.

37. Hukamzad.
38. Sultan Jan Marwat.
39. Sikandar Vazir Mohammed Khel.
40. Mohammed Gul.
41. Ghulam Khan.
42. Khuti.
43. Painsa Mir.
44. Ida Mir.
45. Sada Gul.
46. Nimak Khan Wazir Mohammed Khel.
47. Izab Khan Wazir Mohammed Khel.
48. Umar Gul Wazir Mohammed Khel.
49. Magrab Khan Sukhri.
50. Shahdalraz Khan, son of Akbar Ali.
51. Mir Sahib Khan.
52. Shah Qalzam Khan.
53. Sardar Khan Surani.
54. Wazir Azam Khan Surani.
56. Magrab Khan.
57. Dost Mohammed Khan.
58. Khan Badshah.
59. Maulvi Zarmain Khan Wazir Sardifel.
60. Malik Galoom Khan Wazir Baqa Khel.
61. Malik Godi.
62. Shahzada Khan Doad Shah.
63. Maulvi Amir Alim.

Examination of Maksud Jan

My name is Maksud Jan. I am a Pleader of Bannu. This is my statement which is correct and has been signed by me. I am practising since one year. There are 26 lawyers, out of them one or two are toadies, the others are nationalists. All the lawyers wear Khaddar. The lawyers have only passed resolutions and have not done any practical work. The Hindu population is preponderating in the city. They are 20,000 and the Mohammedans are 8,000. There is Hindu-Mohammedan unity in the District. There is one District Congress Committee in Bannu and there are small Committees in the District. All have been declared unlawful.

31-5-30

(Sd.) MAQSOOD JAN, B.A., LL.B.,

Vakil, Bannu

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

Examination of Mohammed Faizulla Abbasi

To the Chairman:—My name is Mohammed Faizulla Abbasi. I am a graduate. My father's name is Haji Mohammed Bakhsh. I have signed below the statement given by Maqsood Jan. My statement is the same. I am a Cloth Merchant in Bannu. I deal in Swadeshi cloth. I have boycotted English cloth. Anybody in the District who buys foreign cloth is fined Rs. 5.

31-5-30

(Sd.) MOHAMMED FAIZULLA ABBASI

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

44

The Statement of Dharam Singh, Son of Narain Das, Age 23, Occupation Tailor, Residence Bannu

That on 15th May 1930, at about 9 a.m., the police beat me, with regulation lathis so very mercilessly that I became senseless, on the mere ground that I had asked them to behave a little leniently. I received the injuries on my head and body. A rumour went round the town that I had died. Immediately there was a Hartal, which went on for six days. I was unconscious for two or three days and gradually I began to get better. I feel pain in my head even now. When I applied for a medical certificate, it was refused. In Bannu, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims live in perfect unity. The Government has got nervous over this and is trying to break this unity and therefore they have come down to all sorts of repression. In Bannu city the population of Hindus and Sikhs is larger. Their relations with the villagers is a matter for envy. Propaganda for khaddar is going on vigorously. Every one is pledged to non-violence. The Government has shown wonders in repression but the people are ready to make all sorts of sacrifices.

To the Chairman:—I remained in Hospital for 6 days. I have pain in the head now. A bone of a finger of my left hand was fractured. The doctor did not give me a certificate. The bazar doctors do not give a certificate, as they say their certificate would not be relied upon.

31-5-30

(Sd.) DHARAM SINGH

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

**Statement of Pehlwan Faqir Mohammed, son of Mian
Mohammed Awan, age 25 years, occupation
Shoe seller, residence Mohalla Mullan
Majid, Peshawar**

On the morning of 23rd April 1930, I came to know that at night the leaders of the Congress except two were arrested. The people were standing beneath the Congress office. I also joined. Just then 2 lorries loaded with police came there and the Sub-Inspector showed warrants against the two leaders. Ghulam Rabbani Sethi and Allah Bakhsh Barqi gladly handed over themselves to the police. The police got them in the lorry and proceeded. The lorry, in which the leaders were sitting, got punctured near 'Chowk Yadgar,' and the police got them down. The police, the leaders and the people proceeded toward Kabuli Gate Thana. The people were peaceful. When the people reached there, the Thana gates were closed, after some time the doors opened and the leaders were taken inside. The people were dispersing when the armoured cars came at great speed without giving any warning, ran over the people, killing and injuring several persons. On seeing the dead and the injured the people got excited and threw brickbats on the armoured car. The armoured car began shooting, and several people were killed and injured. I returned, when I reached the Pukka Pul. I saw behind me people bringing the dead bodies on charpais. At this I thought it advisable to go home and I did so. At my house I heard the firing till 4 p.m.

When I was standing opposite the Thana I saw an Englishman on horseback. After seeing the crowd he went back. After a short time the armoured car came. I recognized Majid, son of Bholu, out of the dead.

To the Chairman:—Out of the martyrs I know Majid, son of Bholu, whose number is 24 in Ex. F. About 10 persons were crushed under the armoured car. I think they were ten or twelve. Out of them 5 or 6 died and 5 or 6 were injured. When some persons were throwing brickbats, the people were asking them not to do so. I did not recognize the Deputy Commissioner. I did not see any Englishman coming out of the armoured car as there was a great crowd.

Q. Diwan Daulat Rai:—You have said that there was a great crowd, and you were one of them; the leaders went in the Thana; what did the leaders say to the people?

A. They asked the people to remain non-violent and disperse peacefully, that they should get their names enlisted in the Congress and become volunteers and continue picketing and the work of the Congress peacefully. The people were shouting

National slogans. At the time the people were removing the dead, they were shouting National cries. One English officer came on horse-back and went after hearing National slogans. The people were not afraid of him and continued shouting National cries. The English officer went in great anger. The Sub-Inspector who had taken the leaders in the lorry was present at that time. When the people tried to remove the dead and the injured, who were crushed, the firing began from the armoured car. When the leaders went in the Thana, they asked the people to disperse peacefully; and the people began to disperse. Some people began to come there from the city. The people would have gone peacefully as they used to go always after public meetings and there was no necessity for the armoured car.

Q. When the Englishman went back after hearing the National cries, can you tell after how many minutes the armoured cars came?

A. After 15 or 20 minutes.

Thumb impression of

31-5-30

FAQIR MOHAMMED

Read out to the witness who has put his thumb impression in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

46

The statement of Abdul Rahman, son of Mohammad Ishaq, Kashmiri by caste, Business Timber Merchant, Aged 22 years, Residence Timber Market, Peshawar City

That on the morning of 23rd April, when I got out of my house, I learnt, that arrests had taken place during the previous night. On hearing this, I reached the Congress Office. There I learnt that there had been nine arrests and two had yet to be made. After a little while Ghulam Rabbani Sethi and Allah Bakhsh Barqi came into the Congress Office, who said that warrants against them were also issued, as the police had gone to their houses to arrest them. After that our Captain, Muhammad Usman, ordered me to take 10 volunteers to picket the liquor shops, and as I got down from the office with volunteers, I started towards the liquor shop in Karim Pura Bazaar. On the way, a crowd collected and followed us. However after posting 2 volunteers I came back to the Bazar Batabazan and posted 2 volunteers on the liquor shop in the Dabgari. After having finished this work I kept on patrolling the liquor shops. When I reached the Kissa Khani Bazar, Ghulam Rabbani, and Allah Bakhsh Barqi were going towards the Thana. The crowd was raising shouts in an absolutely peaceful manner and when it reached the Thana the door of the Thana was shut. The two leaders knocked at

the door, but nobody opened it. A European Officer on horse-back came there and quickly went back. After a while armoured cars came very quickly without any warning and they did not slacken their speed on seeing the crowd, as a result of which many people were wounded and died. I saw the wounded gasping and from there I came running to Khilafat Committee office and ordered them to take charpais and bring the corpses. After a little while, volunteers brought the wounded and the dead. I was present then. Dr. Khan Sahib came there to dress their wounds and the water with which the wounds were washed was with me; and in my presence, the wounds were dressed. At about 2 p.m., firing was heard again. At that time I was sitting below the Khilafat Committee office. The volunteers took the dolis and after a little while, they began bringing the dead and the wounded and till 6 p.m. they went on bringing the dead and the wounded.

To the Chairman:—More than 30 dead bodies were brought to the Khilafat office. I did not count them. I remained in the Khilafat office till 6 p.m. When I was in the Khilafat office, I heard that the British soldiers had besieged the Congress office. I therefore went there. M. Abdul Hakim is the President of the Khilafat Committee. He was there that day. Ghulam Rabbani was the Secretary. The Secretary has been arrested. There was Hartal on that day. There was complete Hartal on account of the arrest of the leaders. Therefore people were going about. Picketing had to begin at 9 a.m. A large crowd had collected near the Congress office. I went towards the Kabuli Gate at about 10-30 a.m. At that time, leaders were outside. A little before the arrival of armoured cars, they had gone inside the Thana. At the time of entering the Thana the leaders asked the people to carry on the work in a peaceful manner and to go home quietly, continue picketing and enrol themselves in the Congress. A European on horse-back came, the crowd was raising the shouts of "Inquilab Zindabad." On seeing him, they shouted more vigorously. This is generally the case. On hearing the shouts, the Englishman on horse-back galloped back. After about 15 or 20 minutes three armoured cars came. When I saw the people were crushed, I immediately went to the Khilafat office to give information. Then I came back to the Kabuli Gate. Then I was busy with Dr. Khan Sahib in dressing the wounds of the injured. Dr. Khan Sahib had come over to the Khilafat office.

Q. Do you know anybody from the dead persons?

A. I know the following:—In Ex. F Illahi Bux No. 5. No. 66 Dawa Khan of Dhaki Nal Bandi, was also known to me. I knew Daswandi Ram No. 11.

31-5-30

(Sd.) ABDUL RAHMAN

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of

the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

47.

The statement of Lala Jwala Dass, son of Lala Amir Chand, caste Dhawan, Age 26, Occupation Iron Merchant, Residence Peshawar

I beg to state that on 22nd April 1930, it was proclaimed that liquor shops would be picketed with effect from 23rd April. I learnt on the morning of 23rd April, that many leaders had been arrested and that was the reason for the hartal in the bazars. When I was standing near the Kotwali, I saw that two Congress leaders were taken towards Kabuli Gate Thana, they were followed by a big crowd. I also joined the crowd. When the leaders and the crowd reached the Kabuli Gate, the leaders thanked the crowd and admonished them to continue the Congress work by non-violent means. After a short while the wicket gate of the Thana opened and the leaders entered the Thana and the people began to disperse. They were yet dispersing when three armoured cars arrived from the direction of the Kabuli Gate. The first armoured car rushed upon the people without sounding the horn. Thus many a man was crushed. I witnessed six persons thus crushed. The people began to pick up the dead and the wounded persons underneath the cars; people were excited and were shouting National slogans. After this I came to a shop which was closed and stood on the pucca bridge. I was relating these facts to the people when the dead bodies began arriving. On 4th May 1930, I saw many Congress volunteers wounded. They were wounded when the Congress office was raided. The British soldiers made attacks on the people who were returning home after extinguishing a fire at Ander Shaher on 3rd May 1930. I have seen Ex. F I know Moti Jabawala. He is in the list of the wounded as No. 41. He died in the hospital on account of his injuries.

Q. (Chairman). Do you pay income-tax?

A. I pay Rs. 200 as Income-Tax.

Q. Why have you come here?

A. I had gone to Lahore on business. There I learnt that the Peshawar Enquiry Committee had come to Rawalpindi. I thought it my duty to give evidence before it. Hartal was observed on 23rd April 1930. It was due to the arrest of local leaders. On the same day the liquor shops were to be picketed at 9 o'clock. I am a Congress volunteer. I did not go to Congress office at 9 o'clock. I went to see whether the Hartal was complete in Bazar Hatta. The Kabuli Gate is about two furlongs from Kotwali. I saw the leaders coming on foot. The crowd was following them. I went along with the crowd. The

armoured cars arrived 15 or 20 minutes after me. British soldiers were sitting in them. I cannot tell the exact number. I did not recognize the Deputy Commissioner. The leaders first remained standing outside. Then they made speeches. They said that if the people sympathised with them they ought to continue Congress work by non-violent means. They ought to enlist as Congress volunteers and strengthen the Congress work. As far as I can remember I did not see any men pelting stones. When the leaders had gone in, the armoured cars arrived. People were crushed underneath it. I went to my Mohalla Karimpura to give information. The witness identified Deas Raj, No. 28 in the list Ex. F. He was a pupil of Lala Baij Nath, tailor of my street. I also know Lala Daswandi Mal No. 11. I also know Moti Jabawala, No. 41. They are entered amongst the wounded in this list but they died in the hospital.

31-5-30

(Sd.) JWALA DASS

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

48

The statement of Fazal Ul Rahman, son of Ghulam Haidar, Age 35 Years, Occupation 'Pan' Dealer, Residence Peshawar

When I reached the Clock Tower on the morning of 23rd April 1930, while going to my shop, I heard people talking about the arrest of Lal Badshah and others. They were saying that they were taken to Thana under arrest. I also went to the Thana and then came back to my house. As there was Hartal in the city I did not open the shop. At about 11 or 11-30 I heard that firing took place in Kissa Khani and several people were killed. On hearing this I came to Kissa Khani and saw the people removing the injured and the dead. Some were taken to the Khilafat office and some to Gharkhana. I also helped in removing one of the dead bodies. After this I came back to my house. Afterwards I heard the people saying that the authorities were not allowing the people to remove the dead bodies. At this I again went to Kissa Khani and saw the dead bodies lying and several persons talking. The British soldiers did not allow the people to remove them; anybody who tried was beaten by the British soldiers. The number of the dead and injured is not less than two or three hundred. I could not see this scene and came back. On 4th May 1930, the military pickets were so strong that no one could stir out from his house; owing to this military picketing the children and the women remained hungry. Anybody attempting to stir was beaten. One shop was open in my mohalla when I went to purchase food stuff, I saw a British soldier standing. When

I came near the shop they pursued me. I ran away and came home. I know Abdul Majid, son of Bhadu, his number is 24 in Ex. F.

To Diwan Daulatrai:—I saw many dead bodies in the Kissa Khani. They were lying on both sides of the bazar on shop platforms, beneath them and in the bazar. I saw bullet marks on the houses and 'Chabaras' as far as the shots could go. There were no blood marks in the bazar. We heard that the blood was washed away by the Government.

To the Chairman:—The people who were removing the dead were shot. Some people ran away on the commencement of firing and some stood there. The people standing there were telling the military that they might shoot them but the people would remain non-violent. All the people were of Peshawar. I ran away.

Thumb impression of

31-5-30

FAZAL UL RAHMAN

Read out to the witness who has put his thumb impression on the statement in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

49

The statement of Abdul Rauf, son of Abdul Karim, age 32, Occupation Zemindari, Residence Utmanzai, District Peshawar

On April 23rd 1930, when I was sitting in the shop in village Utmanzai, Sub-Inspector of Police Ghulam Mohmud Khan and policemen suddenly arrived in a motor lorry and got down opposite the shops and went up to the office of the Frontier Youth League which is situated at the gate of my shop. They enquired about Sarfraz Khan, the Commander of the Youth League volunteers or Khudai Khidmatgars. He was at home at the time. He came out and accompanied the policemen in the lorry willingly and cheerfully. After that they (the police authorities) went in search of Haji Shah Nawaz Khan, who was at the village, Mohammad Nari, that night. We came to know from the driver who had brought Abdul Ghaffar Khan from the village Naqi that Shah Nawaz Khan was also arrested. At the same time news was brought about the arrest of Ahmed Shah, Barrister. This news spread through the country like lightning. The people began to muster strong at Utmanzai and at the Tahsil Charsada armed with rifles, axes, spears, pistols and heavy cudgels, indignant at the arrest of innocent persons who were popular and loved by every one. The crowds swelled to some seventy or eighty thousand. The Khudai Khidmatgars (volunteers) controlled the crowds with great determination and cool-headed perseverance and their work was praiseworthy beyond description.

Even the weapons of the crowds, guns, sticks, etc., were secured from them. And after satisfying the people with gentle words, they saw that they dispersed in the evening at about 5 or 6 p.m., although the Government had tried to spread among the people the news, with the intention of creating mischief that Abdul Ghaffar Khan and his party had said that the people should take care lest they (i.e., Abdul Ghaffar and others), should be spirited away from among them. Yet the Khudai Khidmatgars kept a magical control over the people and prevented any outburst of violence.

Peaceful Meetings at Different Places

After Khan Sahib and his party were taken away enthusiastic but peaceful meetings were held at different places. The speeches delivered in these meetings were all intended to produce a calm atmosphere among the people, because most of these people had come after saying good-bye to their families. The Ulema and the leaders controlled the situation with great tact. I want to say at this stage that the movement grew tenfold. The Government did not interfere at this time.

General Massacre in Peshawar

On 23rd April 1930, at 3p.m., the news came that the Government had blown up the people of the city with machine guns. We tried in every possible way to reach the spot to know the real fact. But the city was besieged on all sides. Nothing but armoured cars were visible outside the city. I saw it with my own eyes that any one who went near the rampart of the city was beaten with lathis. Therefore we had to return.

Military Expedition Against the Village Utmanzai

On 13th May 1930, at 3 a.m., the Government besieged the village Utmanzai while it was still dark. At the break of day the Deputy Commissioner with British and Indian troops entered the village. Outside the village were posted eight hundred British mounted troops and one regiment of Indian cavalry consisting of Sikhs, Mohammadans and Dogras. Besides this, were present Shia soldiers, three hundred strong, who had been specially enlisted to assault. These Shias were from trans-border villages, in Tirah, where they had fought each other on a religious issue and been defeated. Government had given them shelter for its own selfish ends. There were four Lewis guns and numberless machine guns outside the village. The Deputy Commissioner went near the office of the Khudai Khidmatgars and ordered the British and Shia soldiers to break the gate of the shop over which the said office was situated. They tried their best but failed. They therefore surrounded the balcony by climbing up the walls. The soldiers who were standing below began to break open the shops. They broke open the flour shop of Suleman, resident of the village Ajjar, and after throwing his empty bags

hither and thither, took away two hundred rupees of his, which he had placed under these empty bags. He duly reported the matter to the Anjuman.

The Burning of the Office

The British soldiers after breaking the wicket opened the Mandi gate when there was no person present. The soldiers rushed in at once and broke open the baithak of the Mandi. The sacks lying outside were torn up by bayonets. The bags of Gur (Sugar-cane juice) were emptied. They ate some of it and took away as much as they could. When they were told that it was a Mandi they replied, "Damn the Mandi. It is Red Army Stores." The books of the Mandi that were found there were burnt. My partner, Srimund, had returned the same evening after having collected all dues from outside. As the time was short I deposited the collected money along with the list in the wooden almirah, thinking that next morning after checking the accounts, expenses, etc., I would enter it in the books. Next morning the events above described took place. The money was taken away by the soldiers. In order to correct the accounts I am trying to find out how much money he (my partner) had collected. Approximately some four thousand rupees are missing. I can estimate the loss due to the loss of books. I do not know how much money is still with the Zamindars and merchants and whether I will be able to recover it or not. The "invoices" have been handed over to the merchants but no receipts have been made out. The above matter was duly reported to the Committee.

The Deputy Commissioner went up to the balcony and ordered the Khudai Khidmatgars who were on duty there to go down and to take off the uniforms. They replied that they would not go down unless ordered by their own officer, and that they would rather die than take off their uniforms and clothes. At this Rabnawaz Khan, the Commander of Khudai Khidmatgars, ordered them to go down with cries of "Long Live Revolution." The Deputy Commissioner tried to prevent them shouting slogans as they were going down and touching the breast of a Khudai Khidmatgar, named Shambaz with his revolver ordered him to take off his clothes. He replied "Sahab, yeh hargiz na hoga, aur khas kar Pathan ka pajama maut ke kabl utar nahin sakta." "Sahib, it is impossible and the trousers especially of a Pathan cannot be taken off so long as he is alive." At this the Deputy Commissioner himself beat him with fists and two British soldiers began to beat him with the butt-ends of rifles till he fell down unconscious. In his unconscious state his clothes were torn and thus he was rendered naked. After this Faiz Mohammad, a Khudai Khidmatgar was ordered to take off his clothes. He too refused. Eight or nine British soldiers began to take off his clothes forcibly. But he was a tall and powerfully built

young man, and they could not bend him. Then they wounded him on his forehead and the wound is still there. They beat him so much, that he lay unconscious for hours. In his unconscious state, every British soldier who was there kicked him. Thus one after the other every Khudai Khidmatgar, who was present there was beaten severely, and his clothes torn off. Ghulam, Abdul Razak and several other Khudai Khidmatgars were hurled down on the pukka metallic road from the balcony. Abdul Razaq broke his foot. Ghulam's head was injured. Abdul Ghaffar and Hakim, Khudai Khidmatgars were wounded by bayonets. The beating that was given to Mohammad Naqib Khan, the Captain of the Khudai Khidmatgars is beyond description. His shirt was forcibly taken off, but when he was ordered to take off his trousers, he dashed towards his house which was nearby to fetch a revolver to retaliate. But Rab Nawaz Khan, the Commander shouted "Is your patience exhausted so soon that you are going to retaliate by violence? You swore to remain non-violent according to the Congress creed till death." At this he returned, bare-headed and barefoot and without any shirt and was arrested.

In the confusion and beating which was going on, was standing in uniform a small boy named Abdul Wali Khan, son of Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the pride of the Afghans. The Deputy Commissioner asked the small boy, "Who are you?" He replied "I am the son of Abdul Ghaffar Khan." The Deputy Commissioner having abused him signed a British soldier to bayonet whereupon the soldier leapt towards him like a mad man. But a Muslim soldier who was witnessing this affair, intervened and his hand was injured severely by the bayonet. Another British soldier who was standing by advanced but Mir Hassan Khan, brother of Sarfaraz Khan, who was in charge of the arrested persons at once took the boy in his hands and jumped down to the Masjid which was near and thus saved himself and the boy. At the time of coming down, the balcony was burnt by the acid. The whole Bazar was in danger of being burnt down, but the Sappers and Miners and other people extinguished the fire.

Eighteen Khudai Khidmatgars were arrested and taken towards the residence of Mohammad Khan. Then the licensed arms were collected from the people. Sardar Ram Singh who was the Peshkar (the chief attendant) of Baba Faqir Singh and was the manager at Utmanzai was arrested on the ground that he should surrender the gun which he had for the safety of the Gurudwara. He replied that it had been deposited in the Government godown at the time when Baba Singh was going to his house. Even inspite of this excuse, he was kept in the police lock-up for two days.

L. Gokal Chand was asked to return the licensed gun and also to return the pistol which he kept without a license. He

replied that he had no objection to return the gun only if cost price could be given to him. As regards the pistol he had none. He was also put in the lock-up but released later on. Maulana Sahib Mohammad Israd who was at home at that time was also arrested.

The Khans of the villages were called and scolded for not preventing the people from making "mischief." They replied that they were starved people and that when a child cries, the mother gives milk to it and it keeps quiet, and that people should be conciliated by showing them mildness and kindness. It is beyond our powers, they said, to control them. Hidayat Ullah Khan, son of Captain Khan Sahib, brother of Abdul Ghaffar Khan requested the Deputy Commissioner, not to use abusive language, as it was beyond the pale of decency and gentlemanliness. At this he was arrested.

After this, twenty-one men, Hindus and Mussalmans included, were taken in chains. On both sides were infantry armed with bayonets. In front were Indian mounted soldiers, behind them the British mounted soldiers, after them Lewis gun and machine gun, in the middle the prisoners, behind them again mounted British soldiers, behind them guns and behind them were Indian mounted soldiers. The wounded refused to be treated by the English and used Indian medicines. I was personally present at this point. It is a custom among us that when anybody is arrested, we start the picketing of the lock-up in order to know and obtain the information of the removal of the prisoners and the conduct of the case against them. Accordingly the picketing was started in the night. Early next morning, the Deputy Commissioner, coming out of his bungalow, ordered the Khudai Khidmatgars to disperse. They replied that they would not leave their duty except by order of their own officer. The police was ordered to beat them, at which they refused and said that they could not use force on the lambs. "Order us" they said "to fire at them and that too on one condition that the first shot be fired by you. We will follow you." They were sent back and the Shia army was called from Peshawar by telephone. They beat the Khudai Khidmatgars on duty so much that they bled at nose and mouth and their clothes were torn, but they did not budge an inch from their duty. At last when they apprehended the danger of a fight between the Shia and the other troops they ceased beating. The beaten persons were six Khidmatgars and one Jamadar who is now responsible for keeping them non-violent and safe.

Village Takkar in Tehsil Mardan Burnt Down

Khudai Khidmatgars in Utmanzai applied for permission to oppose the Government.

On 27th May 1930, at 8 a.m. I was sitting in my Mandi.

Two Khudai Khidmatgars rode recklessly in the Mandi and brought the message that since 2 a.m. at night the army had besieged the village and till the time they left, four houses belonging to respectable men and where the Khudai Khidmatgars used to sit had been set fire to and the flames were seen rising to the sky. The people of the Ilaqa were ready to fight the Government and the people of the surrounding villages were also prepared to give help. Only the permission of the Central Committee was wanted. A letter from the Central Committee was given to them instructing the people and especially the Khudai Khidmatgars to remain non-violent, even if they were hanged. If any man went from Utmanzai and if any accident occurred the Government would get an opportunity of using violence and accusing us. As far as I know Khudai Khidmatgars kept non-violent. When the flames of the fire rose to the sky, the people of the surrounding villages hurried to help them thinking that fire had broken out in the village. The Government ordered to open fire of rifles and machine guns upon them, the detailed report of the killed and wounded etc., the Central Committee, Utmanzai, will be receiving to-day, God willing!

To the Chairman:—This is my statement and it is correct. I have signed it.

Utmanzai is at a distance of seventy-one miles from Peshawar. Motor lorries ply on this road to Utmanzai. Khan Sahib Abdul Ghaffar Khan also lives there, Dr. Khan Sahib is the elder brother of Abdul Ghaffar Khan. He is also a resident of Utmanzai. He practises as a Doctor in Peshawar. Abdul Ghaffar Khan is a member of the Peshawar City Congress Committee. He is the Vice-President of N.-W. Frontier Provincial Congress Committee. There is a Congress Committee at Utmanzai, the name of which is The Assembly of the Youngermen of the Frontier (Jirga-i-Naujawan-i-Sarhad). The reason to so name it is to make the people understand it as they do not understand the word 'Congress' but do understand the word "Jirga." The Central Committee of the Jirga consists of 100 members, and Sub-Committees have ten members each and every village has a Sub-Committee. Members for the Central Committee are selected from these Sub-Committees. There are eight big villages. The constitution of the Jirga i.e. Assembly is in Pushtu. The object of the Assembly is the same as that of the Congress. We have translated in our own language the very rules framed by the Congress. This Assembly has been in existence for one year and its work has gained strength. After the Lahore Congress we set up Independence as our creed.

Like the Sub-Committees there are Khudai Khidmatgars everywhere. The number of Khudai Khidmatgars in Tahsil Charsada is more than one lakh. At the time of enlistment every Khudai Khidmatgar reads the creed of the Congress. The edu-

cated Khudai Khidmatgars sign their names. The uniform which is worn consists of a mixture of four colours, red, blue and black. Our flag is made of black colour. As there is a controversy about the Congress colours therefore we have adopted the black one. After the decision we will adopt the same colours as the Congress. My personal capital is forty or fifty thousand rupees, with which I am running a Mandi. I have two water mills the value of which is fifty thousand rupees.

The value of my land is forty to fifty thousand. Our houses including those of my tenants are eighty. My house is a pukka one while my tenants' houses are kucha. I am not a member of the District Board. Only nominated members are on it. On 21-5-30 Mr. Miller S. D. O., called a private meeting of big Zamindars, so that they should stop the agitation. No persons who were either Congress members or Khudai Khidmatgars or members of the Assembly were called to this meeting. Only such men were invited who were Government members. The meeting was a private one and was well guarded. So that no man, a Khudai Khidmatgar or their Congress sympathiser should enter. They had issued admission cards, some 150 for this meeting. Mr. Miller gave a speech at this meeting. We got a copy of this speech. I can say with certainty that this is the exact copy of his speech. I am prepared to accept all responsibility for this statement. I am sure that the men who were present at the meeting will admit that it is an exact copy. How I got the copy I am not prepared to disclose. It is a confidential matter. One man of our own was present there. He knew shorthand. He took down every word of the speech. I will not disclose his name. With this copy is attached the copy of the speech which I gave in reply to Mr. Miller's speech.

Our Ilaqa (our part of the Tahsil) is all sound. The army which was brought for our repression with the British soldiers was all Shia. There is a deep-rooted enmity between the Shias and Sunnis in this Ilaqa.

31-5-30

(Sd.) ABDUL RAUF SHAH

Read out to the witness who has signed the statement in the presence of the Committee.

31-5-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

50

**Syed Sultan Mahamed, son of Syed Mahamed Niwaz,
age 26 years, occupation Zemindari,
residence Peshawar**

On the morning of the 23rd April 1930, I went to School. It was 10 o'clock and I was still at school when some persons came and reported that firing had taken place in the Kissa Khan bazar and that many men had been martyred. I inquired what

had happened. They replied, the police were taking away Messrs. Ghulam Rabbani and Allah Bux Barqi. The lorry got punctured near the Memorial Chowk and the above-mentioned gentlemen then went on foot. When they reached the Kabuli Gate Thana, they found the doors closed. As the city had observed hartal that day owing to nine arrests, a large number of people had collected outside the Kabuli Thana. The arrested persons shouted repeatedly to the police authorities to open the doors; but the doors remained closed. Thereupon the above-mentioned gentlemen again requested the crowds to go away but the people had not the heart to go leaving their unselfish servants at the door of the Thana.

After this four armoured cars entered the Kabuli Gate at such a high speed and without hooting that five men were crushed under them and some seven persons were wounded. The crowd moved back.

In the meantime the doors had been opened and the above Congress workers had gone in. The crowd began to raise cries at this tragic event, and demanded that the armoured cars be removed so that they might remove the dead bodies of their brethren. But nobody cared for this. The order for firing was given.

The school closed at 10'clock and I came to the office of the Sarhad. The volunteers of the Khilafat brought thirty dead bodies and 40 wounded. About 3 p.m. the volunteers were coming from the Kissa Khani with empty stretchers. I enquired and they replied "they are aiming their rifles at us too and four or five of us have been martyred. They don't allow us to remove the dead bodies." Then I went personally to the Sadar side in order to see the state of affairs outside the Kabuli Gate. I saw eleven closed ambulance cars going towards Sadar till 4p.m. while I was sitting in a mausoleam (ziaratgah) outside the Kabuli Gate.

In the evening the troops were removed for half an hour from the bazar. The roads were suddenly closed again. As there were people still in the bazars who wanted to go to their places, the British soldiers wounded them and belaboured them. At about 8 p.m. I reached the office of the Sarhad where I learnt that the Khilafat volunteers had till then collected and conveyed fifty-five dead bodies and 150 wounded. At 10-30 p.m. I, in company with Sahib, Ghulam Nabi Khan, Sardar Askar, came down from the Sarhad office and left for home. On our way we learnt that at that time somebody had brought three dead bodies from somewhere to the Khilafat office. One of them was a Hindu who was immediately sent to the Seva Samiti and the rest two were taken to the Islamia Madrasa. The Maulvis were requested to recite the Quran the whole night. We went home

at 12 midnight. On the morning of 24th on coming out of the houses we learnt that the authorities had removed with the assistance of the troops the dead bodies at 2 a.m. The bazars were patrolled by the British troops and everybody, including women and children who strayed into the bazars and lanes were chased and badly bayoneted. At night while at home, I heard shots fired at about twelve. On the morning of 25th I saw a crowd near the Clock Tower where I also saw blood on the ground. I learnt there that there was blood in Bazar Batabazan also, I hurried to the spot but the place had been thoroughly washed.

The troops had left since morning. While I was sitting in the office I came to know that the Government had requisitioned 200 Boarder and plainclothes men. This gave rise to rumours among the people. It is alleged that the Government had induced the outside villagers to plunder the city, but on their refusal to do so Shia soldiers of the Kurram Agency were called in for the same purpose; but due to the presence of Congress and Khilafat volunteers they did not succeed.

We went home at 8-30. On the way we met a lorry containing twelve or thirteen plainclothes men who went out of the Toot Gate, which led us to believe that there was something suspicious. I went home and Yunis went to his place. But I was restless and went again at 9 to the latter's house. I asked him to accompany me as we suspected a calamity. Yunis accompanied me and said that the Police Inspector must be informed first. We went to the police. Six Sub-Inspectors were sitting with him. I asked the Inspector why he had boycotted us as there was no constable throughout the city bazars and we had closed some of the city gates. Thereupon he ordered the Sub-Inspector of Hashtnagar to go at once; but he did not go in our presence to post the pickets. I accompanied by Yunis patrolled Sar Asqar and offered our assistance to him. After that we came to the Khilafat office and Sar Asqar sent the volunteers in our presence to post the pickets. I accompanied by Yunis patrolled Kissa Khani and other places till 3 a.m. Thereafter I returned home and Yunis remained on duty.

On the night of 3rd and 4th May we learnt that several arrests would take place. Accompanied by Yunis I went to the office of the Sarhad. At 1 a.m. we came to know that there was a fire. We went out and came back at 2-30. When I got up at 5-15 a.m. I saw that the troops had come into the bazars. The following arrests took place during the day.

Yunis Sahib, Abdul Rabkhan Nashtar, Dr. Ghosh, President, Provincial Congress Committee, with ten other gentlemen, were arrested. The above-mentioned gentlemen were arrested as they were recording statements of the wounded regarding the

occurrences of 23-4-30, and making inquiries from the relatives of the deceased, so that this tragic happening may be published to the world in its truest colours. This annoyed the Government. We also learnt that they went upto the offices of the Congress and Bharat Sabha and badly wounded the volunteers present there and ordered them to go out. Property worth six hundred rupees was burnt down. Throughout the day the British soldiers continued belabouring most mercilessly and injuring the people. The city was so thoroughly picketed that the residents of one lane could not go to the other. Hundreds of people, including women, were wounded. The Mosques in important bazars were closed due to military pickets. And those whose houses were situated in the bazars could not get water throughout the day.

5-5-30. There are regular military pickets and atrocities were being perpetrated and the troops were wounding the people as before. The troops were patrolling the streets and bazars every hour. They also visited the blind alleys and there belaboured the children. I returned home at 8-30 p.m.

6-5-30. Military pickets continue but cruelties are a bit less than yesterday, I mean the wounding and belabouring. Many persons have individually informed the Chief Commissioner of the real facts; but in vain. In this connection the Editor, The Sarhad, Mr. Taj Mohammed Khan Taj, has published a poster containing a brief resume of events. I produce it now. One or two letters were also addressed to the Chief Commissioner which were replied to by him.

7-5-30. Military still continues, and during the last three or four days about 200 persons have been seriously injured.

The following are known to me:—

- (1) Faquir Muhammad Khan.
- (2) Abdulla son of Amir Khan.
- (3) Madad shop-keeper.
- (4) Masamat Farooq.
- (5) Faqri, son of Lal.
- (6) Sardar Gul Khan.
- (7) Ghulam Hussain.
- (8) Gul Mohammed.
- (9) Ghulam Mustafa.
- (10) Umar Bux.
- (11) Haji Sardar, Municipal Commissioner.
- (12) Mr. Pir Bux, Vakil and Municipal Commissioner.
- (13) Mr. Mohammed Yunis, Vakil and Municipal Commissioner.

(14) Allah Bux Sethi.

After this occasional arrests continued. Five persons were taken to the Thana without handcuffs by the Inspector. And the people remained perfectly peaceful in pursuance of the instructions issued by the Khilafat office holders.

21-5-30. The Government wants to record evidence before allowing the witnesses to appear before the Commission of Enquiry.

It is rumoured that a procession of the ladies is to start from Karimpura. Military pickets were stiffened in Karimpura and shops were looted. The doors of the houses were chained from outside and for three days the troops continued acting in the same manner. Two Khilafat volunteers, while distributing posters advising people to boycott the Government Commission, were arrested.

28-5-30. The above-mentioned two gentlemen have been released. The volunteers who were bringing them and raising shouts, were arrested by the police, in front of the Kabuli Police Station, to whom they surrendered. They were made to stand naked in the sun from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and were taken to jail in the evening. They were not given water nor were we permitted to supply them with food and drink. About the release of the first two volunteers, the Khilafat Secretary was sent for. The Secretary, Khilafat Committee, states that three Khudai-Khidmatgars were brought to the Central Jail in his presence, who raised National slogans. The Chief Medical Officer ordered their removal to the Judicial lock-up. He sent for a "tikikki", cane, the doctor and the Superintendent of Jail. They were given three stripes each for raising shouts.

These events are bound to deeply affect the people. Mr. Carew came at 6 p.m. to the Khilafat office at the head of 200 British soldiers. The military patrol ceased for a few days but it is again being started.

The said Secretary of the Khilafat Committee being ill cannot come. He has specially instructed me to present these facts before you

To the Chairman:—I am a Municipal servant. I wish to give evidence in camera. And till the publication of the whole evidence before this Committee I pray for this concession. I know that my name will be published in the report. But I want to give evidence in camera so that I may work in peace for a few days.

I saw dead bodies in the Islamia School which had been brought there by the Khilafat volunteers at 10 p.m. from the Khilafat office so that they might be buried on the following morning. The British troops removed them at night to some unknown place. The school is situated near the Khilafat office.

More than fifty-five dead bodies were brought to the Khilafat office that day and 150 wounded also. A list was prepared but it is at Peshawar. I will send it, on reaching there, if I get it from the Sarhad office. I know Ilahi Bux, Khilafat volunteer. Our correspondent was present when the dead bodies were brought to the Khilafat office. He made inquiries regarding their names and entered them in a list which has been published in the Sarhad dated 29-4-30. I can confidently assert that the list is correct and the persons have actually died. Out of the list I know the following:—

Ghaffur Khan, Huzzur Khan, Lassi, son of Sher Dil, Mohammed Said, son of Fazal, Ilahi Bux, son of Mohammed Sadiq, Mir Ghulam Shah, son of Mohammed Newaz Shah, Khilafat volunteer. I produce the Sarhad paper dated 29-4-30 (Ex. J) The facts I have mentioned in my evidence are correctly recorded in the paper. In Ex. F, I know the following wounded persons:—

Abdul Halim, son of Abdul Hakim, Mohammed Yunis, son of Mian Mohammed Bux.

Q. When was the Memorial in honour of the Martyrs raised?

A. On 27-4-30. I present a photo of the same, (Ex. K) I had written the following Urdu words upon it "In memory of the Martyrs for the liberty of India, Peshawar 23-4-30."

I also produce page 7 of the Frontier Advocate dated 6-5-30 which contains a hand-drawn picture of the memorial raised in memory of the martyrs for the liberty of India at Peshawar. It is Ex. L. This memorial was built by Mohammed Ashiqji, Fruit Merchant, who paid for it. It cost more than a hundred rupces. The people raised memorials in streets on the spots where they saw the dead bodies of their brethren. They placed lights and offered flowers at the said memorials. The flowers were offered because the innocent blood of their dear brethren had been shed there. The people illuminated these places like "Divali" continually for three or four days. It was generally believed that tombs would be raised at these places and the road would be blocked. It was for this reason that Ashiqji, fruit merchant, came forward to erect that memorial at one place as the expression of their joint desire, photograph whereof I have produced.

Q. At what spot was the memorial raised?

A. At the platform in the Kissa Khani Bazar at a distance of two steps on the right hand side of the road leading from Kissa Khani to Dhaki Nal Bandi.

When Ashiqji had erected the memorial he noticed that on the very first night the people offered flowers and kindled innumerable lights having given up the memorial worship at other

places. He therefore decided to raise a permanent memorial to perpetuate the memory of the martyrs for all time to come. He purchased ralling, the following day, and got it fixed all round. Ashiq Hussain was arrested on a charge of murder under Section 302 I. P. C. within a week.

Q. When was the memorial demolished?

A. I think it was demolished in the third week of May.

Q. How was it demolished and by whom?

A. Ashiqji was made to demolish it in the presence of the superior officers under military coercion at 4-30 a.m.

Ashiqji who was in custody on a charge of murder, Sec. 302 I. P. C. was brought from Jail and was made to strike the first blow. He did not know why he was brought there. British troops were present. All superior military officers were standing there and all rifles were aiming at Ashiqji. He was ordered to demolish it, which he did. He was released thereafter, and told that there was no longer a case against him. All this has been told to me by Ashiqji himself. He is now free.

1-6-30

(Sd.) SAYAD SULTAN MOHAMMED

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

Note:—Although the witness has been examined in camera at his request, he has no objection to his evidence being published along with the other evidence.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

51.

The statement of Abdul Hayi, son of Miran Abdul Gaffur, caste Afghan, occupation Timber Merchant, residence "Kaka Jamadar" Street Peshawar City

I learnt on the morning of 23rd April 1930, that National leaders had been arrested on the previous night. When I went to the bazar, I learnt that two leaders had not then been arrested. When I was standing near the Clock Tower there arrived two lorries full of police near the Congress office. The Sub-Inspector said that he had warrants for Ghulam Rabbani and Allah Bux. On this both the leaders surrendered themselves to the police. The lorries started off. As the people were accompanying the lorries to escort the leaders to the Thana I also joined the crowd. The crowd was moving in a most peaceful manner. When the lorries arrived near the Chowk Yadgar, the lorry which was carrying the leaders got punctured. The police and both the leaders got

down and started on foot towards Kabuli Gate. At this time the crowd was also proceeding peacefully. When the leaders arrived in front of the Thana, the door of the Thana was closed. The police knocked at the door but it was not opened for a very long time. When the door was opened the leaders went in. They advised the people not to do anything illegal and act on the policy of non-violence. In obedience to this advice the people began to disperse. At this time three armoured cars came running there with great speed. They did not sound any horn. Soon after one armoured car went over the people. This action wounded and put many people to death. They were about ten in number. Seeing this condition and seeing the wounded gasping, the people began to pick up the dead bodies. At this time some one brought a cot and one dead body was placed on it. Then I started off with that dead body which was taken to the Khilafat office. After this several other dead bodies arrived there in my presence. After this I went home. I heard that firing took place for the second and the third time. I came out of the street and saw people carrying away dead bodies upto 6 p.m. On 24th April people were taking out the funeral of a martyr near the Clock Tower where a squadron of the military was also posted. When the European officer of this squadron saw the people coming with the funeral he ordered his squadron to be ready. People stood there with greatest calmness and patience and with their chests open. The people said "Yesterday you have killed many innocent brethren, now please kill us also." At this time one educated man stepped forward and spoke to the said officer that the people were taking the martyr for burial. When the officer understood that the people meant no harm, he became silent after saying one or two words. The people proceeded with the funeral. After this day the troops began troubling the people very much. This went on for several days. Shopkeepers opened their shops in the morning and when half of the shops had been opened, suddenly the British soldiers appeared on the scene and got the shops closed after beating the shop-keepers. In the morning of 4th May, when I left my house, I saw all the ways closed by the British troops. On that day many members of the Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha were arrested. The property of both these offices was taken possession of by the British troops. I heard that this property was burnt. Pickets were stationed at both these offices by the British soldiers. After this, British troops were withdrawn but the police pickets are still there. Uptil now the military is stationed in the city. People experienced great difficulty in going to their sacred places for prayers on account of the military. Accordingly Id prayers could not be said in the Idgah, as is usual every year.

I assure you, gentlemen, that this statement of mine should be considered as my last statement because I feel that the Govern-

ment following its usual policy of repression would arrest me for this statement. The Government wants that the cry of our unfortunate province should not reach your ears. The news is being circulated in our city that he who goes to Rawalpindi for giving evidence would be arrested on his return.

To the Chairman:—I have put in my written statement. When the police admitted the leaders inside the Thana, a European arrived there on horseback and returned immediately. People stood fast to their conviction and were shouting National slogans.

Q. When did you return a second time?

A. When the armoured cars arrived and the people were crushed. When one dead body was taken to Khilafat office, I went with it. People had nothing in their hands.

To Dewan Daulatrai:—Every meeting which was attended by several thousand people always ended in peace and the people returned home peacefully.

I am a member of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha. The President was Comrade Sanobar Hussain, who is under arrest. He had not then been convicted. It has now been declared an unlawful assembly. Upto this time about twenty members of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha have been arrested. The object of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha is to organize labourers and farmers. They follow non-violence. I am not a Khilafatist. Khilafat is a religious body and Congress is a National one. Their ideas are not opposed to one another, rather they are similar. They too wear Khaddar and remain non-violent.

Q. How have you come?

A. I read in a newspaper that the All India Congress Committee had appointed an Enquiry Committee and I have come to give evidence before it.

Q. Did you have any trouble in coming here?

A. I have come clad in foreign clothes because I thought they might trouble me as a Khaddar clad person. Even then I have been put to much trouble. I arrived here day before yesterday.

Q. Do you recognise any of the dead?

A. I know the following out of the dead on the list Ex. F:—

1. No. 5 Illahi Bux, Mohamad Hafiz.
2. No. 11 Lalla Daswandhi Ram.
3. No. 24 Abdul Majid, son of Babusu.
4. No. 33 Guffoor Mali

and I know the following out of the wounded:—

1. No. 2 Mohamad Unas.

I remained in the Khilafat office on 23-4-30 for only 15 minutes.

1-6-30

(Sd.) ABDUL HAYE

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

52

The statement of Mohammed Yusuf, son of Ghulam Rasul Khan, Afghan, age 37 years, occupation landlord and merchant, residence Tahsil Mardan, District Peshawar

On 23-4-30, the day of the occurrence at about 2-30 p.m. I entered the city through Dabgari Gate. From Dabgari Bazar I came to Kohati Gate, and passing it and the Mission School I reached a street which opens in Kissa Khani Bazar. At the end of the street opening in Kissa Khani, the Gurkhas were standing. I came near them and wished to enter the Kissa Khani Bazar, but they did not allow me. I stood by them and saw the happenings in Kissa Khani. Some dead bodies were lying there, but no one came forward to remove them in my presence. In this street near one hotel the people were saying that those who attempted to remove the dead bodies were also killed. After this I heard firing now and then. This was going on between 4 and 5 p.m. I heard that one man was shot near Old Egerton Hospital. In the evening I went to the Khilafat office to find out the number of dead bodies with them. I came to know that at that time they had three corpses at Madrassa Jattan. They had sent one dead body of Ilahi Bakhsh, a student of the Islamia Collegiate School, to his relatives. As it was late in the evening, I could not see responsible people, and so could not satisfy myself. I then went to the Congress office. There was a Sikh regiment under the office, and there was silence in the Congress office. One or two persons met me and they said that a few minutes before my arrival Magistrate and Police Superintendent, who were both Englishmen, came to the Congress office and asked for the removal of National Flags and the badges. But the volunteers in the office refused to obey; at this the officers went up the office and took away the badges and the National Flags. They also took Pandit Amir Chand Bamwal, the representative of the Associated Press of India. The police took all the people to Gorkhatri police station. When I came down from the office I met Amir Chand who confirmed the above news. At that time I came to know that the body of a Hindu was brought to Khilafat office but his relatives could not be traced and so it was handed over to Seva Samiti. Now it was dark and the orders were that no one should go out after 8 p.m., and no one should light a lamp. I went to my house. On 24-4-30, I again went

to the Congress office. The people were coming there in great numbers, and were enquiring about the dead. The lists were being prepared. After one or two days the Congress bulletin was published. After the bulletin was issued, the people still came in my presence to enquire about their missing relatives. The names of the missing people were taken down and then the second incomplete bulletin was issued. At this stage it is necessary to mention that the dead bodies lying in Madrassa Jattan as above-mentioned, were taken away in the night by Municipal Commissioners by breaking the locks. We also came to know that they removed dead bodies from wherever they could find them. It was rumoured that they had disposed them off by throwing them in the river, they were busy in burying the dead. I got the news confirmed by them and they confirmed it in the public meeting in Shahi Bagh and said that besides those dead bodies, other dead bodies were taken by the Government. On the morning of 4th May 1930, the military entered the city and wanted to arrest the leaders of the Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha. The Government issued a proclamation in the city declaring the two Associations unlawful assemblies. It was said on Government side that these Associations had conspired with the Haji Sahib of Turangzai. At this stage it is necessary to mention that after 23-4-30 the daily bulletin giving the daily events of the Ilaqa and the country was issued by the Congress.

In one bulletin, Haji Sahib of Turangzai was mentioned and also that in Shabqdar and Chitidheri public meetings were being held—the last mentioned villages are situated near Peshawar city in Tahsil Peshawar in British territory. In my opinion the Government took advantage of this news and made this an instrument to declare the Congress and Naujawan Bharat Sabha as illegal and unlawful assemblies. So far as I am acquainted with the views of the National workers and of the Congress Committee officials and so far as I have studied their views, because I have been a member of the Congress Committee, therefore I can say with certainty, that there is not a single person on the Congress Committee who preaches any other thought or view than the non-violent and peaceful creed or who holds any other view or who is carrying on intrigue with any outsider. Since 4th May 1930 soldiers are occupying the city. After 4th May the British soldiers have been beating with "dandas" (batons) people at various places and I have seen this with my own eyes. In whatever bazars the soldiers passed they beat whomsoever they wished, so much so, that two Municipal Commissioners—one Pir Bux, Vakil, and Mohammed Nawis—were beaten by "dandas" in the Ganj Bazar. Their injuries were simple. But I was informed by Mr. Pir Bux that he mentioned his injuries to Sir Abdul Qayum. Since 4th May there was so strict watch (Naka Bandi) that the people could not get the necessities of life

from the bazar and the British soldiers were so posted that there was hardly any intercourse between the inner and the outer city. For many days such conditions lasted. Yesterday 31-5-30 in the morning at 9-30 I was standing in the bazar near the Kabuli Gate. When a tonga entered the Kabuli Gate. In the tonga a Sikh gentleman was sitting in the front seat; while at the back a lady was sitting with a child in her lap, and one 8 year old girl was also sitting by her. At that time I heard a shot fired. The tonga advanced a few paces, there was a shriek, the tonga driver stopped the tonga, the girl fell down and the people ran towards her to pick her up from the ground. The police constables and the British soldiers also left their posts and ran towards the spot and surrounded the dead body and pushed away the people. The people demanded the dead body. Meanwhile Mr. Carew, the Deputy Commissioner, reached there and the soldiers also came in sufficient number. The people were crying pitifully and were demanding the dead body. The Officer Commanding was told that until and unless the dead body was delivered to the people, the crowd would go on increasing every moment. The Deputy Commissioner promised to hand over the body after the post mortem examination was over. While this talk was going on the soldiers began to belabour the crowd with "dandas" and butt-ends of rifles. Many were injured before my eyes. Again and again the people were pushed back from the Kissa Khani Bazar. The dead body was handed over by the Lady Reading Hospital authorities. The people formed a procession and accompanied the dead body, passed through the city and reached the home of Seth Karim Baksh in the Ganj when a regiment of British soldiers came there from the other side and fired at the people who were going in a procession with the dead body. When I got the news I went to Doctor Khan Sahib's shop in the Ganj in the inner city and there I saw the doctor treating the injuries of the injured people. Any one whose injuries were treated was sent to the Civil Hospital. I accompanied many injured people to the Civil Hospital. As the soldiers made a complete blockade of the spot in question, the number of the dead and the injured persons could not be exactly known yesterday. But the Khilafat Committee prepared such a list and arranged for the burial of the dead. I could not find out the number of the Mohammedans, Sikhs and Hindus separately in the Khilafat list but the number of the Musalmans seemed greater than the others.

The Congress bulletin was published about the dead and injured on 23rd April. Many were identified. When the injured were taken to the Congress office their names and addresses were taken down. Afterwards the Congress people made a round in the different parts of the city and prepared a list. Many came to the Congress office and dictated the names and addresses of those who could not be found. Another list of the persons whose names were discovered after the last list was also prepared; but as

the police took away all the papers and furniture from the Congress office this second list could not be published. It is necessary to submit here that the Government took away all the property of the Congress and also it is learnt that some articles owned by the Congress Committee have been burnt by the police. The people living in Peshawar City and Government Ilaqa Baroon, outside Peshawar city, kept non-violent in obedience to the mandate of the Congress and bore the oppression cheerfully. Khaddar is now universally being worn in Peshawar. If this Enquiry Committee had its sitting in Peshawar, it would have undoubtedly seen the signs of stray firing, which was resorted to without the order of the City Magistrate. The doors of the shops and planks still bear signs of the firing. I beg to submit about Afghan Jirga and Khudai Khidmatgar that they are the votaries of non-violence and follow very closely the wishes of the Congress and work for reforms in the country through peaceful means. Hitherto civil disobedience was not resorted to by them, but the Government owing to its nervousness suspected them and arrested the leaders, and they much resent the order whereby this Committee, whose representatives they were, has been declared an unlawful assembly. Then the turn of the Kohat Congress Committee came. It is difficult to imagine with which Haji Sahib they had made political alliance, that they were also victimised. Then the turn of the Congress Committee at Dera Ismail Khan came and it was duly attacked. Shortly a proclamation of this nature, concerning the Hazara Congress Committee will be issued, and its fate sealed. These days every part of the North-West Frontier Province is being oppressed under the pretext of public peace. And to uphold the dignity of law, severe punishments, which were meted out to the Moplas, will be their fate, so that they may be deterred from participating in the National movement, and might be cowed down to such an extent as never to try for Constitutional reforms. If the bureaucracy is sincere and upright, then why are people from outside debarred from entering the North West Frontier Province even for the distribution of relief. I well remember the fact that when Maulana Abdul Kasuri gave intimation to the Deputy Commissioner of the intended visit of the Doctors of the Punjab to offer medical aid the reply was given that no medical aid was required as the wounded were being very well looked after!

I want to submit at this stage the fact that on the night of 24th and 25th April, some people were returning from the fair of Shahbari Latif. At night the military pickets fired at those people who entered the city. On 25th April (morning) I reached Pacca Pul near Ghanta Ghar, and saw people in dismay. I came to know that on the previous night some persons were shot dead. The place of occurrence is near from there. I personally visited the place and saw fresh blood stains. The passersby used to stand

round the places of occurrence, and look at them in amazement. I cannot recognize Ilahi Bux who was murdered, and Ghulam Jelani who was wounded.

An Enquiry Committee was appointed by the Congress Committee to find out the causes of the incident; and to make out a comprehensive list of the killed and wounded. The Committee started its work of inquiring into the incident and obtained considerable material. But unfortunately they were arrested, and the police took away all the documents, and the belongings of the Congress Committee. On the previous day, the Chief Commissioner, expressed his sentiments of sympathy by the beat of drum to Sardar Ganga Singh for the bereavement of Sardar Ganga Singh's wife at the loss of their children, who were killed and besides this an assurance for the immediate appointment of an inquiry was given. I submit herewith the Government announcement in original.

(Note.—The witness produced a proclamation by the Chief Commissioner, dated 31-5-30 which is Ex. M).

To the Chairman:—I have given a written statement. It is true. I did not know Ganga Singh, but I learnt yesterday that he was serving in the Government Diary Form. On 31-5-30, when the people were going in a procession I was far away and therefore could not see the firing by the British soldiers, but I heard the shots. I do not know why firing took place. I was far behind. I do not know how many died and were wounded as a result of the firing. I went to Dr. Khan Sahib's dispensary and saw many wounded persons being dressed. From there we brought four or five wounded persons to the Lady Reading Hospital.

To Lala Dunichand:—On 23-4-30, when at about 2-30 P. M. I reached a lane which opens in the middle of Kissa Khani Bazar, some persons were asking the people not to go further as firing was going on. I can identify these men, but I do not know their names. I can say with certainty that the Congress had no correspondence with the Haji of Turangzai whatsoever, nor did it invite him as is stated in the official proclamation. The proclamation Ex. A which was issued by the Government on 29-4-30 contains these words that the Congress had admitted having correspondence with the Haji of Turangzai and had threatened that they will have the district invaded by a lashkar of Hill Tribes. This is absolutely untrue.

Q. (Dewan Daulatrai):—I did not understand you, whether you saw the tonga of Ganga Singh being fired at?

A. I heard a shot and immediately after I saw a girl falling from the back seat of the tonga. She was killed. People gradually collected at the place of occurrence. Before the crowd had

collected, the British soldiers and the police made a cordon round the dead body. The military and the police tried to lift the dead body of the girl and began pushing back the crowd which had collected near the dead body. The crowd swelled and the military was strengthened. The crowd numbered about 1,000 at the time. The military people went with the dead body to the Lady Reading Hospital outside the Kabuli Gate. The people on the spot wanted to go with them but were not permitted to go. The dead body was however taken to the Hospital.

1-6-30

(Sd.) MOHAMMED YUSAF

Read out to the witness who has signed the statement in the presence of the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

53

The statement of Lachhman Dass, son of Bhagwan Dass, caste Soni, occupation service, age 22 years, residence Peshawar

Yesterday when I heard that a woman had been shot at in the Kissa Khani, I went first to the bazar and then to the hospital, where in a room I saw the dead bodies of two children, a boy and a girl aged one and seven years respectively, and in another room I saw a wounded woman who was being operated upon. She was the wife of Sardar Ganga Singh, whom I recognized. Subsequently when the operation was over, I went, again in the room where Ganga Singh's wife was, with the photographer. In my presence she was photographed. After that the people who had collected there having taken out the funeral of the two dead bodies of the children, entered the Ganj via Andar Sheher and Chowk Karimpura. Thereafter performing ceremonies and passing Gorkhati they started towards Mohalla Dhallan. They were at a distance of ten paces when British soldiers came from the other side. As there was a big crowd, Hakim Abdul Jalil advanced and asked a British military officer to give them way to pass. At this a British soldier struck Hakim Abdul Jalil with a bayonet wounding his hand. A Sikh gentleman sat down and entreated that officer to give them way so that they may pass that it was not a procession but only the corpses of two children. This was what Hakim Sahib also said. After this some other gentlemen also made similar requests and asked permission to pass but the officer refused permission and gave the soldiers the order to fire. The British soldier began firing while kneeling on the ground people began falling but did not let the pyre fall. Whosoever of them was wounded was succeeded by another immediately and there was no discrimination between Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. Whosoever was wounded and remained alive, carried the pyre forward which was taken to the Dharamshala

of Biba Singh, but I got on to a balakhana nearby, wherefrom I saw all these incidents with my own eyes. A few minutes after the pyre was taken, every British soldier came there and blocked all the roads. The people and the relatives of the deceased who were present in the lanes and on the roofs of the houses nearby, were asked by a military officer to send for persons to take away the dead bodies. I myself saw 20 or 25 bodies being carried away by the people, which included the dead and the wounded. Subsequently when I reached the Khilafat office from the other house I learnt that they had received a number of dead and wounded which was 40. I myself saw the dead and wounded at the house of Dr. Khan Sahib. Of the dead I know Chamanlal, son of Nika Mal, Haji Mohammed, Bakhshu and a Sikh labourer. Of the wounded I recognised Abdul Jalil, Harrbhad Asa and several others whose names I do not know.

To the Chairman.—When general firing took place the dead and the wounded were taken to the dispensary of Dr. Khan Sahib and from there were removed by their relatives after identification. The wounded were dressed there. I saw 20 to 25 wounded and the dead being carried by the people from the place of occurrence with my own eyes. I went to the Khilafat office and from there I learnt that many dead bodies and wounded were lying at the house of Dr. Khan Sahib. There was no cause for firing. Hakim Abdul Jalil Nadvi made clear to the officer in charge of the military that it was not a procession but they were taking two corpses to be cremated, but a soldier struck Hakim Sahib with a bayonet which he warded off by his hand and his hand was grievously wounded. I did not see Hakim Sahib at Khan Sahib's place. I got up on a balakhana very close to the place of occurrence and watched from there. I can say definitely that no one threw stones, etc., nor had they anything in their hands. They only entreated to be allowed to pass.

To Diwan Daulatrai:—What I mean is that I did not notice anything to provoke on the part of the people but the British troops in their pride they struck the Indian people and the people in the rear of the procession raised cries of Inquilab Zindabad after the firing had taken place. What else could they do.

1-6-30

(Sd.) LACHHMAN DASS

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

**The statement of Mani Ram, son of L. Dhani Ram,
caste Khatri, age 33 years, occupation Com-
mission Agent, residence Mohalla Ram
Pura, Peshawar**

Yesterday on 31-5-30 at about 9-30 A. M. Sardar Ganga Singh was coming towards the city from the side of Kabuli Gate with his wife and two children. At this time I heard the sound of firing at Dhaki Nalbandi from the side of Kabuli Gate. I ran towards the gate. I saw one child aged about 2 years and one girl aged about 9 years shot dead. I also saw the wife of the doctor lying wounded. The military immediately blocked the way through the gate. This news immediately created hartal in the city. About two or three thousand people collected on the spot. Meanwhile a big party of British soldiers, Sikh soldiers and Pathan soldiers arrived on the spot. The Sikh soldiers assaulted the people with bayonets and 6 or 7 persons were grievously wounded. I know two out of the wounded, one is Lala Karam Chand and the other Baba Asa Nand. After a little while Hakim Abdul Jalil and Salim Khan Sahib arrived on the spot. Sardar Ganga Singh, Hakim Abdul Jalil and Salim Khan demanded the dead bodies which were given to them after many entreaties. The dead bodies were brought to the hospital. After medical examination funeral was taken out. It reached Ganj via Andar Sheher and Chowk Karimpura. From there when the people arrived near Tahsil Gorkhatri, Salim Khan Sahib took pledges from the people to remain non-violent and peaceful. After this the funeral procession started towards Bara Bazar. When they arrived near Mohalla Dhallan, armed troops came from the opposite side. They stopped the procession by force.

Hakim Abdul Jalil and others requested for a passage from the officer of the troops, but they did not give way and the officer did not accede to the request of anybody. One British soldier assaulted Hakim Sahib with a bayonet and caused a wound in his hand. At the second assault one other person came in between and the Hakim Sahib was saved. Sometime after the officer ordered to open fire and the people began falling. I returned home via Mohalla Dhallan. I personally know two out of the dead. One is Chhaman Lal and the other is a Sikh who worked as a labourer and out of the wounded I know Sardar Kirpal Singh, son of Sardar Arjan Singh and I also know Lala Beri Lal. People are uptil now peaceful. The soldiers are committing much violence. All ways are closed.

I have put in my written statement. To the Chairman:—Twenty-three people died, twenty-five people are wounded. I learnt this from the Khilafat office. Khilafat Committee has prepared a list but it is not yet complete. This shows that 23 are dead

25 wounded but many more people are injured but they are not in the hospital. I was present on the spot. I estimated all casualties at about 50. I have brought the list prepared by the Khilafat Committee, I have a copy of it. I started from Peshawar last night and arrived here this morning. This list is incomplete. I left Peshawar at 10 A.M. There, by 7 A.M., ten dead and twenty-two wounded were entered in the list and I was told that a complete list was being prepared. Volunteers have gone to collect material for completion of the list. I produce the list. It is Ex. N. All the dead and the wounded were photographed. I think the plates and the complete list will reach this place by to-morrow morning.

Information about 23 dead and 25 wounded has reached the Khilafat office. Their names and addresses were being taken down. I have brought the list of those above names and addresses which had been discovered. I have produced that list. The volunteers had gone out to investigate about the rest. I have come here. Firing was done by British soldiers. In Peshawar the British soldiers alone have been firing so far as it is known to me. Indian troops did not fire at all. Shia people who are in the Border Militia commit violence on the citizens. The Suni Moham-medans, Sikhs and Indian troops did not fire at the people. Neither they used lathis on them.

Q. Why did they fire on the people?

A. Our leaders including Hakim Abdul Jalil and Salim Khan requested the officer of the troops to give way to the funeral party or to get aside and pass along. One Sikh young man entreated the officer very much while sitting on the ground and requested him to give them way to take the funeral on. Similarly the other leaders made entreaties but the officers did not pay any heed to their requests. Instead of acceding to the request of the people, they replied by bayonets and assaults upon the poor unarmed people.

Q. What was your fault?

A. There was no fault of ours. Shots were fired at the innocent. I think and it was evident from their attitude that they had orders to kill us and had come to shoot us. There was no Magistrate. I know Dr. Khan Sahib. I fell in the crowd and many people fell over me. I have received injuries. I am feeling pain in chest and legs. I have a mark of injury on the leg.

Note.—The witness showed his mark of injury to the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) MANI RAM

Read over to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

1-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

**The statement of Hakim Abdul Jalil Nadwi, son of
Mohamad Abdulla, residence Mohalla Kazi-
Khelan, Peshawar**

I was a member of the All India Congress Committee and also of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee. I am doing National work since eleven years. I am acquainted with the working of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee. I have attended several meetings of the Working Committee. If I missed any meeting, still I got all information about its proceedings. Therefore what I state about the Congress is correct.

All the members of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee except myself have been arrested. It appears that I have not been arrested owing to the fact that I am not taking any practical part in the present struggle of the Congress for Independence and in the Civil Disobedience movement. Owing to certain family affairs I am not prepared for arrest and conviction in these days; I proclaimed this fact in a public meeting. Another cause, for my remaining still outside jail, is that the authorities perhaps like my activities for maintaining peace. However the fact remains that I am still outside the jail to grieve while my friends are in jail.

I came to know at 10 p.m. on 22-4-30 that arrests would take place at 3 a.m. There were 11 warrants issued and most probably a warrant against me was also issued. I waited till 3 a.m. At about 3-30 a.m. Aga Sayad Kasim Jan, member of the Working Committee of the Congress, and Pir Shah-in-Shah, President of the Congress Committee, Kohat, came to my house and informed me that Lala Paira Khan was arrested and the police had surrounded their houses. In the morning I came to know that Maulvi Abdul Rahim Devbandi and Khan Ali Gul Khan were arrested in the night. Aga Sayad Lal Badshah, comrade Rahim Baksh Gaznavi, Maulvi Khan Mir Hilali and comrade Acharj Ram were arrested in the morning at 7. Mian Ghulam Rabbani Sethi and Mian Allah Bakhsh Barqi went to the Thana along with Aga Sahib but as their warrants were with another Sub-Inspector they came back to the Congress office. 23-4-30 was the day fixed for starting the picketing of liquor shops. Most probably the Government was not prepared to tolerate this picketing. The authorities thought that if they arrested the leaders perhaps the Congress would desist from picketing, and it would not be started. But the Congress did commence the picketing and the people observed Hartal voluntarily. I went to the jail to have interviews with Aga Sayad Lal Badshah, Khan Ali Gul Khan and other arrested persons, but the Superintendent of the Jail did not allow me. I went to the Deputy Commissioner for permission. The Deputy Commissioner only gave me permission to see Aga Sahib,

and Khan Ali Gul Khan. Ashiq Hussain, fruit merchant and a friend of his accompanied me and we stayed in the jail up to 11. At about 10 or 10-15 a.m. we got information from the jail that armoured cars were going towards the city at great speed; we thought that they were sent to overawe the people. But at 10-30 or 10-45 we got information that firing took place in the city. One British soldier was killed and many Indians became martyrs. I requested the jail authorities to arrange the interview at once, as I could not stay there any longer. We sent Mian Ashiq Hussain's friend at once to the city in order to get from him the right information. At 11 or 11-15 Mian Ashiq Hussain also went away after remarking that firing had taken place in Kissa Khani, and he was not sure whether his relatives were safe or not. My interview was arranged. I told Aga Sahib what I heard and asked for a message. He gave a message that the people should remain peaceful. He expressed sorrow for what had happened. At about 11-20 a.m. I reached Edwards gate but the road was closed. I entered the gate with the help of one Sub-Inspector and arrived on the spot. When I entered the gate I saw one armoured car burning. British soldiers were standing in the bazar. The military was standing in a line near the water Pump at Dhaki Nalbandi and the people were standing on the other side. The fire Brigade Motor was standing in the crowd. I gave the message of Aga Sahib to the crowd, and requested them to disperse and go away. Also that a meeting will be held at Hastings Memorial and they should all reach there, but the people did not agree to it as they said that they were run over by the armoured cars without any reason and they were fired at without any fault of theirs. Those who had committed atrocities should go back. If they wanted to kill them they might do so. The crowd was much provoked but was non-violent. The Congress volunteers were preventing the clash. I intervened between the crowd and the officers for a compromise. But neither were willing to budge from there. Mr. Isemonger, Inspector General of Police, was present at the spot. I implored him that he should remove the British soldiers and armoured cars but he did not agree to the suggestion. Although he was exercising patience yet he was not moving an inch from his position. I again wished to see the Deputy Commissioner, so that I may make him understand the situation, but he had already gone after being wounded.

The officers showed no inclination to listen to me. Even then I requested some of the Police Officers to have the British soldiers and armoured cars withdrawn. Opposition would then come to an end. Khan Bahadur Said Ullah Khan Sahib, City Magistrate was quietly lying on a charpai inside the Thana. I sought his co-operation but he seemed helpless. At last I proposed that if it was necessary to disperse the crowd, the least force necessary should

be used. The Fire Engine was present. Water might be thrown on the people or the people might be dispersed by the use of Lathis. For the last time I again prayed and beseeched the people to disperse but they did not agree. Finding myself helpless I went and sat down at the shop of Ashiq Hussain. At this time people began bringing empty boxes for placing them before their front row. So that they might be safe from firing. I could not bear to see my people shot down. I left for my house at about 1-20. Afterwards I learnt that the people were fired at by machine guns, armoured cars, rifles and pistols and were thus dispersed. I remained at my house for two hours and a half. At about 4 p.m. I wished to go out to help the people but on coming out of the house I found all the ways blocked. Then I sat on a balakhana on the road seeing the people coming and going. Armoured Cars were passing by. Civilian officers were also sitting in the cars. The roads remained closed for the whole day. I somehow or other reached Gorkhatri at about 6 p.m. and I saw some Boy Scouts under arrest but they were released after some time. The Military patrolled the city in lorries but there was not much hindrance in going about. On the same day 2 or 3 funerals were taken out. Section 144 was promulgated, but it was ignored by the people. The military was withdrawn on the night of 24th or 25th and the police was also withdrawn on the 26th. Some people drew the attention of the authorities to the fact that dacoity and looting might take place in the city; but they were told that the police would fall ill and then would be unable to do any work if they were not allowed any rest. If there would be any extreme emergency police would come for help. Thus the Congress volunteers were compelled to look after the safety of the town and to control the traffic. The volunteers controlled the traffic for the whole day and patrolled the town at night. This state of affairs remained for 2 days. The volunteers of Seva Samiti, Sewa Sangh and Akali Jatha did commendable service in guarding the city. The Provincial Congress Committee had appointed a Committee consisting of Abdul Rab Khan Nishtar pleader, Mr. Radha Kishen, Vakil, and myself to find out the correct number of the dead and the wounded and also to ascertain true fact and then to submit their report. It is a pity that all the papers cannot be found at present, otherwise we had collected much useful and important evidence which is destroyed now. Probably the police has taken possession of the papers when searching the office or it is possible that they may be with somebody else.

As obstacles were put in the way of carrying the news from the city to the outside world, it was decided that Congress bulletins be published. News were censored. In the bulletins the news of the city and of other places on the Frontier was published and these bulletins were being sent to all the places. Previously a man used to write it but after the publication of the Congress Bulletin

No. 9, it was decided that proofs be shown to me. One copy was shown to me, perhaps that was Bulletin No. 10. Bulletin No. 11 was not shown to me. For further precautions it was decided that a lawyer be consulted. Mr. Pir Bakhsh, pleader and Municipal Commissioner, was elected a member of the Working Committee, perhaps this was decided in the Working Committee of 2nd May.

From the 23rd to 4th May no processions were taken out, only meetings were held and liquor shops were picketed. The authorities had themselves closed the liquor shops and it was said that these would remain closed for two months. Then the Chief Commissioner Sir Norman Bolton, had assured the people that no more arrests would be made. The military was also withdrawn by his order. I was told that other officials held contrary views, and they were not satisfied with sending the military a second time, and so within three hours he had to resign and go to England.

Between the night of 3rd and 4th May the military was again posted in the city. On the morning of the 4th the Naujawan Bharat Sabha and the Congress Committee were declared unlawful bodies. All the leaders were arrested. The Congress Committee, was accused of inviting Haji Sahib of Turangzai to invade Peshawar, which is altogether false. The fact is that in the occurrence of 23rd not only the inhabitants of Peshawar were killed but people of Afghanistan and No Man's Land were also killed. From the relations we have with the tribes, it naturally follows that we consider their troubles as ours and they regard our sufferings as theirs and in this incident their own people were also wounded and killed. When the wounded arrived there and the tribesmen learnt the facts they flared up. Everybody is thankful for their sympathy. But we who are the followers of non-violence could never invite them to help us by violent means. But we have no power to prevent them from being violent. They are free and responsible for their own actions. Congress has never been in correspondence with the Haji Sahib or any other tribes and has no connection with Haji Sahib.

Since the 4th May the conditions are that the military is occupying the city. Day and night the military is patrolling the city. In the early days the passersby in the bazar were also beaten. But when the Khilafat Committee, Peshawar, drew the attention of the Chief Commissioner to this fact then beatings were reduced. On the 19th May the monument built in memory of the martyrs of Peshawar and in memory of the 23rd April was caused to be pulled down by the maker thereof. This man was arrested under a charge under Section 302 for an offence of murder. But when he pulled down the monument he was released. Stray arrests are being made even now. People have been distributing hand-written posters. And those who are arrested on suspicion, security is demanded from them. On 31st May when I was sitting in

my dispensary, the brother of Mr. Pir Bux, pleader, informed me that a British soldier had murdered two children in Kissa Khani. I went there at once. And there I saw the same spectacle as on the 23rd April. On the one side was the crowd and on the other were the police and the Border militia. I somehow reached the Kabuli Thana from the side. There I was waiting for some official when the Joint Deputy Commissioner arrived there. I enquired from him the facts. He said that he was very sorry for what had happened. It was an accident. Still inquiry would be made into the matter. The offender had been arrested. He was cleaning his rifle and a shot went off. The offender would be court-martialled. I asked him if he could be tried by a civil court. He replied he could not say definitely. I asked him to deliver the dead bodies to us and people would go away of their own accord. He agreed to what I said and gave me a letter to receive the dead bodies. As the post-mortem examination had not been done there was delay in getting the dead bodies. I handed over the letter to another person and came to the place where the crowd had gathered and gave an assurance to the people that the dead bodies would be delivered. After half an hour information was received that the dead bodies had been delivered to Sardar Ganga Singh, the father of the deceased and that he had taken the dead bodies to the Gurdwara Asamai for the performance of religious rites. I informed the people about this fact and all proceeded towards the said Gurdwara. Taking the dead bodies from there we reached the Hastings Memorial passing from inside the bazar, I was leading. I saw a party of British soldiers and Sikhs coming from the direction of the Clock Tower. On this side was the procession and there was an apprehension of a clash. Proceeding further I came up to the Pukka Bridge. The officer of the company was in front. I told him that a funeral was coming and that he should keep aside or get into the street. But the officer was a gentleman and he ordered a retreat. And a possible clash was thus avoided. The procession passing through the different parts of the city reached Gorkhatri, where there was the same officer and his men. I requested him that British soldiers should be asked to go in. This time again the suggestion was accepted. I requested the officer to close the gate also. This was also agreed to and the matter passed off quietly. Here Mirza Mohammad Salim Khan Sahib made the people take a pledge that they should remain non-violent entirely and even if they were shot they should not use violence against anybody. People stood the pledge and the procession proceeded. This English officer who twice acceded to my requests was Lt. Bramley of the K. O. Y. L. Infantry. We are extremely grateful to this officer. We had advanced about a 100 yards when I saw another batch of British soldiers coming.

I again went forward. This time the officer was in the middle and the soldiers in the front going forward with slanting rifles. Proceeding forward I inquired from them as to where their officer was. Instead of answering my question they levelled the rifles at me and pointed the bayonets to my chest. Had I not retreated I would have most surely been dead or grievously hurt. Turning aside I rushed into them so that I might see their officer. I could not see the officer but I saw another person who had three medals. I told him that this was a funeral. He whistled and the soldiers in first row proceeded further and entered right into the procession. Probably the officer also went forward. The processionists gave way to them. In the meanwhile this same officer Billawala whistled and ordered a halt. Those in front stopped and those in the rear turned left. At this time a British soldier attempted to attack by bayonet a person who had caught his rifle. I told this man to give up the rifle. At this time one British soldier fired on an old man who was standing on the other side of the Bazar. He died as soon as he fell. What more was needed? Firing started. Two or three volleys were fired. Standing on the platform of a shop I kept on imploring the British soldiers to stop firing. Two soldiers levelled their rifles at me. I asked them what my fault was that they were going to kill me. By the blessing of God they did not shoot at me and went forward. All this occurrence must have taken only three or four minutes. We started to pick up the dead and the wounded, those people who had taken refuge here and there also came up. The dead bodies of the children were also taken up. The dead and the wounded were first laid at the Mosque and then they were carried on the charpais to the place of Dr. Khan Sahib. As it had become widely known about me that I had been killed, after I was free from these arrangements I went to my house and then directly came to Dr. Khan Sahib and took the wounded from there to the Lady Reading Hospital. It was the Essex platoon that fired. I did not hear the officer give the order to fire. A British soldier in the back fired the first shot. I met the soldiers and officer of this batch at 2 o'clock when I was taking the wounded to the Hospital, now they wanted to close the passage to the Kotwali. We told them that this was the way to the Hospital. If the passage was closed how were we going to take the wounded? He said he would allow the wounded to pass. He inquired from me as to how many had been killed. I told him that 8 had been killed and 20 wounded. I told him that he had not given the order to fire. He said that he had not. But in the evening I came to know from another officer that he admitted having given the order. On investigation it was found that 10 had died and 20 grievously wounded. Only 12 wounded have been admitted to the Lady Reading Hospital. These are the facts known to me and which I have stated without exaggeration or minimising. This incident had such an effect on me that I have

left my home and came away. I will stay for a few days in Kashmere. No man with feeling and self-respect can live in Peshawar under the existing British soldier's rule. For such a man there are only two courses open, either to protest vehemently against it and go to jail or leave the city. As I am not prepared to go to jail I am compelled to leave my native land. May God bestow special blessings on my Countrymen and relieve them from this torture! May it so happen! Oh God! May it so happen!

Note.—When the witness read the concluding portion of his statement, he was weeping bitterly.

To the Chairman:—I have resigned from the Khilafat Committee as I did not want to join any communal Committee and as I approved of the Congress creed I had joined the congress. Maulana Abdul Hakim is a most learned man and is the president of the Provincial Khilafat Committee. I am a member of the All India Congress Committee and am a member of the Working Committee of Peshawar Congress. I entrained at Peshawar on 1st June 1930. I know a little bit of English. At this stage the Chairman read out to the witness a statement in English by the Khilafat Committee, Peshawar, which had just arrived by post and inquired if it was correct? At this the witness replied that it was all correct, except the portion that firing took place from Gorkhatri at Gandhi about which the witness had no personal knowledge. Except for this portion the rest is all correct. I am an eye-witness to the rest of the occurrence. This statement is Ex. O. The Chairman showed a stamp of the Khilafat Committee on the statement and enquired whether it was that of the Khilafat Committee. Witness said that it looked like that of the Khilafat. I believe that report had been prepared by them in the following circumstances. A meeting of the Working Committee was requisitioned at 3 p.m. I was also called there and it was decided that after finishing the funeral rites at 6 p.m., a statement be prepared on behalf of the Khilafat Committee, which should be sent to the Patel Committee, and the Suleman Committee.

I am sure that the said statement was prepared and sent by them as I have got in my possession the list of the persons who were killed on 31st May 1930, by the British soldiers opposite Mohalla Dhallan. The list of the injured is not with me.

(The witness gave the list after tearing it from the pocket book and signed it which is Ex. P).

The names appearing in Ex. N are contained in my list also. In my statement I have mentioned that 20 people were injured. They are the persons who are injured in the last incident. Sardar Ganga Singh's wife was also injured but her name is not in the list.

Q. Can you say definitely that the people were not at

fault?

A. Yes. I am as sure as it is day just now. No one even spat, no one abused. No order for dispersal was given. The people were not informed that they were going to be fired upon. The procession allowed the military to pass on, and gave way. If they wanted to proceed they could have done so easily. The proclamation No. 10 Ex. F, was prepared by our Congress Committee, and it was prepared with great care. I believe it to be correct. About 500 copies of this proclamation were printed. The Government has not contradicted this. It was trying to procure copies. I saw one C. I. D. man copying it from poster pasted on the back of Yadgar Shahidan. The work of preparing this list was entrusted to Hafiz Abdul Karim, Kulla merchant, by the Congress Committee. The information was gathered by the volunteers. In different mohallas the volunteers were appointed. They sent in the written report to Hafiz Abdul Karim.

Q. Is 'The Sarhad' issued at Peshawar?

A. It was issued from Peshawar but has been stopped now because security was demanded from it. Another newspaper the Frontier Advocate is also issued from there. It is still being published. It is not a Nationalist paper. No security was demanded from it as in the case of the other three papers and the 'Sarhad' which stopped publication, whereas it continued publication. There is at present no Nationalist paper in the Frontier Province and no news of the province can go out. Several newspapers come from outside into the Frontier.

The Exhibit I was shown to the witness. The Chairman asked if the picture on page 7 was correct. The witness said that it was correct but the inscription upon the stone was different. Instead of the words "Shubdai-azadi" the words "Shahidan-i-azadi" were written there. Ex. K was shown to the witness. He said that the picture was correct. On its right and left there are Congress volunteers one is Maulvi Pir Bux who has already given his evidence before the Committee (Witness No. 3).

Q. You have written Edwards gate in your statement, what do you mean by it?

A. I mean the Kabuli Gate which is now called by the people "The Bloody Gate." The Kissa Khani Bazar is called by the people "The Martyrs' Bazar". As I have stated in my statement, I reached the Kabuli Gate at 11-30 I did not see in the crowd any man who had any weapon, i.e., stick, stone, etc. At 1 p.m. of course I saw small pieces of dried mud falling from above upon the armoured cars.

Q. What do you mean by "above"?

A. I mean the balconies.

The people's demand was that the British soldier's and the

armoured cars should be withdrawn and they would disperse. The people said that they would not go unless the British soldiers and the armoured cars were withdrawn, even if they were shot dead.

Q. How did you come to know that the man who erected the monument was arrested under Section 302 Indian Penal Code?

A. He himself told me. He is my friend. He was arrested and deported to Burma along with me in 1919 and we were kept together as State prisoners. He remained under arrest under this Section for 14 days. He was arrested on the 5th and was released on 19th. On the same date he was released in the morning on the demolition of the monument. The monument was demolished at 5 a.m. He was taken out of jail at 10 p.m. He was kept at the Bungalow of the Deputy Inspector-General, Mr. Lathen, the whole night. A Magistrate was also sent for at 11 p.m. His fetters were removed the same night at the same Bungalow. His statement was recorded and a recognizance of Rs.2,000 was taken from him. He was taken to his house at 2-30 a.m. So that he may collect his friends. He collected his brother-in-law (Sister's Husband) Ghulam Rabbani, fruit merchant, his brother Khadam Hussain and 2 or 3 of his servants. From there they all were taken near Town Hall, opposite the Thana. At 4 a.m. all turning of ways were guarded. Troops were brought in a lorry. When there was some light at about 5 a.m. he was asked to demolish the memorial. He and his companions demolished it. It is stated that they were waiting for the light because they wanted to take photographs and two or three photos were taken. Except for the statement with regard to photos, the rest of the statement is what Ashiq Hussain told me at 11 a.m. on the 19th May. Ashiq Hussain is a well-to-do man. I was imprisoned thrice in 1919. I was arrested on 28th May and was released probably on 23rd October. I was arrested on the 28th May under the provisions of Regulation III of 1818 and then again in 1921 on 21st February security of Rs. 10,000 was demanded from me under the provision of Frontier Crimes Regulation Act.

I refused and was in jail for 3 years. The imprisonment was rigorous. The only reason for this was that I was a non-co-operator. I formed the Congress Committee and came to see the Mahatma at Rawalpindi on 19th February 1921. I was accompanied by Pt. Amir Chand Bamwal. I do not want to go to jail now since I have many responsibilities on me, for instance, I have young children and my wife is without friends and relations. My brothers are not well off and they cannot look after the well being of my wife and children in my absence. There are other household responsibilities too.

Q. Why are you going to Kashmir?

A. I am going to Kashmir for the very reason that I am

no longer strong enough to be able to see this rule of tyranny by the British soldiers. I can also not remain quiet and if I am not quiet then imprisonment is in store for me. This is why after leaving my children I am going to Kashmir.

Q. Do you realise the risk in coming here?

A. I have come to depose before this Committee after very great compulsion. Because I am afraid that for my deposition here some steps will be taken against me, but I am not so shameless that I cannot bear even such of hardship. (The witness collapsed at the moment). There are five districts in the Frontier Province. Peshawar, Kohat, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan and Hazzara. These are five administered districts and besides these there are agencies, the exact number of which I do not know. There are Congress Committees in all the five districts. On 4-5-30 the Peshawar Congress Committee was declared unlawful. This notification was issued by the Local Government on 4-5-30. All the Congress Committees and Naujawan Bharat Sabhas, which were in the Province, were at once declared unlawful. This notification came in force in Peshawar on 4-5-30. It came into effect on 4-5-30 in Kohat and Peshawar and on 13-5-30 in Bannu. There is a Congress Committee in Bannu uptil now. The same was done in Dera Ismail Khan. I have no information about Hazzara.

Q. Which is the greatest centre of the Congress activities in your province?

A. The Congress activities in the Peshawar District were in full swing before the 4th May 1930. Before the 23rd April 1930 the Peshawar district used to lead the whole province and the Congress movement in Bannu as well. Kohat was more enthusiastic than Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan was a bit backward than Kohat. Hazzara was the most backward province in this respect. The Head Quarters of the Frontier Provincial Congress Committee were at Peshawar. This Frontier Provincial Congress Committee was guiding all other Congress Committees in the province. There are five Tahsils in Peshawar district. These Tahsils are as follows:

1. Murdan. 2. Nowshera. 3. Charsadda. 4. Peshawar.
5. Swabi.

Q. Who is the greatest leader in your province?

A. None could be said to be the greatest of all leaders but Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Agha Lal Badshah are the most influential gentlemen. Abdul Ghaffar Khan has once been a Vice-President of the Provincial Congress Committee for a year. He is an inhabitant of Utmanzai. There also he has greater influence in the country side than Khan Sahib. He is the most influential gentleman. The Go-

vernment thinks him to be a dangerous man, that is why he has been sent to jail for three years. He has been imprisoned thrice before this. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan is respected and revered by the Frontier people just as much as Mahatmaji is respected and revered in India proper. He is a staunch follower of Mahatma in his Khaddar and non-violent movement. He is the owner of a large estate and is the protagonist of the movement of Khudai Khidmatgars and Youths Associations. Khudai Khidmatgars are in thousands and at the time of joining they have to pledge themselves to non-violence and are votaries of non-violence. The chairman showed the witness a representation, the like of which had been sent to the Suleman Committee by the citizens of Peshawar, and which was signed by 50 men and enquired as to who were the signatories.

The witness answered that the signatories are the merchants of Peshawar and have no special connection with the Congress. This is the original statement and not a copy. Really there were two documents and each of them contains the original signatures of theirs. One of these was sent to Suleman Committee, and the other to Patel Committee. One of these men who had signed on the document sent to the Suleman Committee had withdrawn his signature, but he is a signatory to the document sent to Patel Committee. As far as I know none of the Congress and Khilafat members has signed the document. This document had been sent to me for signature but I did not want to submit any request to the Suleman Committee, because it was appointed by the Government and for this reason I did not sign the document. Some of these signatures were affixed before me. The signature which was delated from the document submitted to the Suleman Committee was cancelled in compliance with my opinion, and in my presence. I presume that this document has been sent to you for information only. It is Ex. Q.

Q. Have you read the Sarhad of 29th April?

A. Yes sir, I have read it.

Q. Do you know that six of the Khilafat volunteers were shot dead when they went to bring the dead bodies?

A. I have learnt through the newspaper that Khilafat volunteers were also martyred. These were killed in the course of lifting the dead and I have heard that the people were not able to lift many corpses. For this reason with the help of some Municipal Commissioners and local pleaders the Government during the night got buried a few corpses. These dead bodies which were buried through Municipal Commissioners and pleaders were not more than six. If the Government, besides these dead bodies, disposed some more, I have no knowledge of that.

Q. Was any dead body found in the Dhaki Nalbandi on the

24th April, and is it correct?

A. I think that the dead body which was taken out in the form of a procession on the 24th April was the dead body of the same person which was found in Dhaki Nalbandi. The procession passed before my dispensary. I shouldered the bier, and later on left the crowd. But certainly there were armoured cars and military soldiers following the funeral procession of Daswandhi Ram. I saw his bier being carried over Pakka Pul. These armoured cars and the military were seen at that time. This happening is of 24th April. The witness was shown the topographical plan of Peshawar which is Exhibit R, and the witness has pointed out the following places:—

- (a) Kabuli Gate and Kabuli Gate Thana.
- (b) Qmach Pazan or Bazar Tin Garan.
- (c) Dhaki Nalbandi.
- (d) The place where the horse had fallen.
- (e) Congress office.
- (f) Mohalla Dhallan.
- (g) Khilafat office.
- (h) The dispensary of Dr. Khan Sahib.
- (i) Gorkhatri City Police station Kotwali.
- (j) Gate Assa Mai.
- (k) Hastings Memorial.
- (l) Lady Reading Hospital.

2-6-30

(Sd.) HAKIM ABDUL JALIL NADWI

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

2-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

Further statement of the Hakim on being recalled by the Chairman

Q. Just see Ex. T and U and state whether it faithfully represents the condition of the bazar when you went there.

A. The state of affairs presented in the two photographs is exactly as I actually saw on the spot on the 23rd April on my arrival there at 11-30 a.m. This is a correct and precisely exact photograph of the spot. I do not know who took the photograph. I have not seen these photographs before; but I had heard that photographs had been taken on the spot. Photo Ex. T has been taken from close quarters which represents the state of things from the place of occurrence to the Kabuli Gate. Photograph Ex. U has been taken from a short distance which prominently shows the condition of the crowd. The photograph taken from close quarters

shows the arrival of the Garhwalis and the British troops arranged in front of the Tinsmith's corner. The photograph also shows 5 armoured cars. The last one is probably the same from which smoke was issuing. The photo taken from a distance shows Mr. Isemonger, Inspector-General of Police, standing amongst the crowd in front of the Garhwalis. I actually saw him then in the same position when I was trying to arrange a compromise. In the photos none of the crowd appears to possess a stick, a lathi or an axe, and in fact they did not have any such weapons.

When I saw the Garhwalis arriving, their rifles were without bayonets but the rifles of the British troops had fixed bayonets. In this photo also the rifles of the Garhwalis are without bayonets. Before the Garhwalis' arrival, the British soldiers stood in a line on one side, i.e. on the side of the Tinsmith's Bazar. And on the other side, i.e. on the side of Dhaki Nalbandi there were standing some policemen, and Mr. Isemonger was standing on the same side. In this picture, Ex. U, too, Mr. Isemonger is standing on the same side. But in the place where the police stood Mr. Garber is standing. Mr. Garber arrived in my presence. The first balcony in Ex. T on which a board is fixed and on the back of which a poster of some cigarette Company is pasted, belongs to Mr. Radha Kishan, Vakil, President, City Congress Committee and Vice-President, Provincial Congress Committee. Mr. Radha Kishan is under arrest. In this picture, Ex. U the board which is seen hanging is of Omania Press which is situated in Dhaki Nalbandi; it was previously known as Shariffi Press. The motor car which is seen standing near the first armoured car in Ex. U in front of which Garhwalis are standing, is a Fire Brigade Engine which was requisitioned for extinguishing the fire in the armoured car. I had conveyed the message of Agha Syed Lal Badshah and Khan Ali Gul Khan to the people by standing upon this Fire Brigade Engine and exhorted them to remain non-violent to the bitter end. I had told him and others about this Fire Brigade Engine, that if the dispersal of the mob was absolutely necessary, then this Fire Brigade Engine should be made use of for throwing water on the people. I have been told that the Government has put forward this excuse that water could not be thrown as the mob had cut off one hose. But if the mob had cut off one hose, there were others which could have been worked. So the pretext that water could not be thrown is baseless and unfounded. I had a talk with Mr. Humphrey, Superintendent of Police on 31-5-30 at 6-30 p.m. near the railings of the Hastings Memorial, when he made the above excuse on behalf of the Government, for not throwing water. He was at that time accompanied by Lt. Bramley, one Sub-Inspector and a European officer of the Sikh regiment. After a short time Pandit Amir Chand Bamwal joined us. I was returning from the hospital after seeing the wounded, when Pandit Bamwal accosted me and began to discuss with me the incidents of that morning. During the con-

versation I blamed them and told them plainly that if they had acted according to my advice, lives of many innocent persons would have been saved. At that time they put forward the excuse about the hose having been cut and their consequent inability to throw water on the crowd and in reply I refuted their argument as already stated. On 23-4-30 when I first suggested to the authorities to disperse the crowd by throwing water on them, the above excuse was not made at the time but on the other hand they said that they had made arrangements and would act accordingly. On 8-5-30 a poster was issued by the Deputy Commissioner that the citizens should celebrate the Id festival as usual and that all ceremonies connected with the festival should be duly performed. Up to that day the people used to return to their houses before sunset. In that poster it was announced that the bazars would remain open on the Id day till 10 p.m. But as the people were in mourning, they did not celebrate the Id festival. The Mela (fair) that used to be held in the city was not held and the fairs that used to be held after two or three days outside the city, were also not held. The people did not go to say their prayers in the Idgah as usual they said their prayers in the Mosques of the city. Some people from villages had come that day, all the residents wore black badges on their coats and shirts. Hindus and Mohammadans alike wore these black badges for mourning. On the 19th May 1930, when that Memorial which was erected in memory of the murdered, was pulled down, black mourning flags were hoisted on the principal Mosques situated in the bazars to express grief. This thing was done by the people who were residing close to these mosques and the bazars were also closed on that day and there was a complete Hartal. On the 4th May 1930 when the Congress Committee and the Naujawan Bharat Sabha were declared to be unlawful assemblies, the British regiments occupied both those offices, and when I left Peshawar on 1st June 1930, both those offices were still in the occupation of the police, although these offices are neither the property of the Congress Committee nor that of the Naujawan Bharat Sabha. They are private property. I was not present there, when the people were first crushed under armoured cars or when shots were fired first. But when I arrived at the spot, I found the crowd near the Police station of the Kabuli Gate. When the armoured cars had crushed the people and when the shots had been fired upon the crowd, the people began to move hither and thither. They were then pushed to that place which is shown in photographs Ex. U when I reached there, the crowd was still at the place.

Fire was opened for the second time from this place according to my information. After 19th May 1930, special attention was directed towards Karimpura. The Bazar was kept closed for 3 days from 23rd to 25th May, and military pickets were posted and no one was allowed to go about in the bazar. On 25-4-30,

when I came to the bazar in the morning, I saw people collected near the Pucca Bridge. The people were expressing sorrow and were saying that passersby had been killed there. At three places there were 3 spots of blood on the ground. A larger quantity of blood appeared towards the Iron merchants shops and on the other side a little appeared in front of the shop of Mian Abdul Hakim, general merchant, and a bit more furtheron. This is the plan where there was a quarrel between me and Mr. Hale Assistant Superintendent of Police as a result of which he was transferred.

3-6-30

(Sd.) ABDUL JALIL

Read out to the witness and signed by him in the presence of the Committee.

3-6-30

(Sd.) V. J. PATEL

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The statement of Ram Chand, son of Mukha Singh, Rajput, occupation motor-driver, age 20, residence Bijnor, at present residing at Peshawar

I originally belong to Bijnor. I have resided at Peshawar Cantonment since a long time. I am neither a member nor a volunteer of the Congress. I am a motor driver. I reached Kissa Khani at about 10-15 in search of my master. I saw that the police was taking two leaders after arrest, to the police station. Many people were accompanying them. I also accompanied them. After a short while the leaders entered the police station. After that a police party arrived there with their officers and stopped near a water tap inside the Kabuli Gate. About half an hour or three-quarters of an hour after that machine guns arrived. They came at a great speed and did not blow the horn. The people cried that machine guns had arrived. Those people who were inside or outside the gate and were nearby went inside but as to those who were standing at some distance from the gate, the armoured cars ran over them. I cannot say how many persons were wounded and killed. As a consequence people raised a hue and cry. The people began to move hither and thither. I also tried to run out from the gate, and I had hardly reached the gate when I was also shot at. I think the bullets were shot from above. Two shots struck my leg but I still tried to run. When I reached near the gate, I fell down and I received another bullet wound on the upper portion of my thigh. When the people were looking after me, I received another bullet on my left shoulder and on the back portion of it.

The people wanted to take me on one side when all of a sudden another armoured car came without giving any warning at a very high speed which passed over the lower portion of my stomach and one of the persons who was looking after me was trampled

under the car and died there and then two persons had their legs broken. I had hardly changed my side when another car passed on my back. I became senseless. When I regained my senses then I found myself on the platform of a shop and I saw that the British soldiers were putting the dead bodies into the lorries and were washing the roads, I became unconscious again. After the expiry of five days when I regained my senses I saw myself in the hospital. I saw a Motor cycle also after the first car had passed, which was following the first car at a high speed and one Englishman was riding it. I received a note to appear as a witness before the Sulaiman Committee from the Government. I produce the same. I refused to take the "parvana" (notice) as I did not like to give evidence before the official committee but the Government servant handed the same forcibly. I desired to give evidence here. Every kind of temptation was offered to me from the official side. As I know that people who used to get salaries worth thousands of rupees have left their service for the sake of the Country and Nation, consequently no useful purpose would be served by my getting money, hence I refused the offer. I was also intimidated and was asked to give up my sympathies with the Congress but I did not hear them and I have reached here in a condition when I can neither stand nor sit. My bones hurt me when I lie down and I am not a wealthy man that I should be able to manage my affairs. I am appearing before this Committee in this condition. Out of the two persons on whose legs the car passed one has died in the hospital and one is still lying wounded. I have come out of the hospital only to-day after taking leave. In the hospital there are twelve previously wounded persons and twelve have reached here now. The latter have been wounded on 31st May 1930. People said that there were more wounded persons at the house of Doctor Khan Sahib.

To the Chairman:—Ex. S. is the "parvana" which came to me from the Secretary, Suleman Committee for giving evidence before the same. I received four bullet wounds, two on the knees, one on the back portion of the shoulder and one on the abdomen.

Q. Where did the armoured car pass?

A. The armoured car passed on the lower portion of my belly and when I tried to turn in order to save myself and I had turned my leg, another armoured car passed on my back on account of which my bones were smashed.

I was not treated because they said that I would die within one or two days as the lower portion of my body had separated. They said "How can he remain alive?" After five days my photo was taken and the fractured bones were set. The bandage was on for one month. Four or five days ago the bandage was removed. I cannot walk at this time. I cannot sit. I cannot stand. My