

## ASHKHAS YODDHA

The Ashkhas Yoddha (*Warriors Of The People*) refers to a secret order said to have originally formed during the reign of, and under the leadership of, [Emperor AshokaMauryaThe Great](#) in [3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE, India](#). In its modern-day form, the organization has evolved into an international network of activist groups committed to [anarchism](#), [liberalism](#), anti-superstition and anti-government. The group gained immense popularity in the late nineties and the early 2000s, owing to their participation in a [series of attacks resulting in the deaths of several known terrorists and international criminals](#) around the world, many of whom had eluded capture by numerous governments for several decades. Although membership has increased exponentially in the years since, most of the members only take part in peaceful protests, internet activism and other non-profit activities; both the inner workings of the organization and the details of its more radical operations still remain a mystery.

In late 2005 a website went online claiming to 'officially' represent the Yoddha; it has provided means to accept both online-only members as well as "full" members who are vetted by existing members of the organization, who go on to partake in real-world roles such as [protests](#) and parades. Many of the members and meeting places are publicly known, and have been investigated multiple times with several arrests in India, China, Bangladesh, Japan, Mexico, Canada, South Africa, The United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Russia. However, very few have been successfully prosecuted for crimes.

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# 1. History

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## 1.1 Origins and Etymology

Although the involvement of Ashoka's role in founding the group is heavily debated, multiple sources accounting the Emperor's later life do mention the Ashkhas Yoddha, with various descriptions ranging from "wandering warriors" to "killers and thugs in the name of justice". According to all accounts no member of the society was ever caught or punished during Ashoka's time, a fact used by many to claim that Ashoka was, indeed, complicit in the group's creation.

Different theories have been offered by historians as to the origins of the group. Some, such as renowned [Indologist Simon Wellings](#), believe that the faction was started by Ashoka himself, who, at the time, had embraced [Buddhism](#) and [non-violence](#) in remorse of the massive death toll caused by the [Kalinga War](#). Since he would have needed to maintain justice and order in spite of his vow of [ahimsa](#), a deniable organization enforcing the law of the land would have been favorable to the stability of the region, while allowing people to continue to harbor the illusion of a regent who never resorted to force. This hypothesis is given credence by the fact that the entire Indian subcontinent flourished under Ashoka's rule after the war without any major internal conflicts, and he is remembered as one of the greatest rulers of India's history. According to Wellings:

It is unlikely that there were no dissenting voices during Ashoka's nearly thirty-year reign after the conquest of Kalinga, especially since many had to have been skeptical of his change in personality at least at first. Considering the vastness of his kingdom, which stretched across most of India and into modern-day Pakistan and even some parts of what is today Afghanistan; he would have needed some way to keep the peace. An elite group of warriors, operating with impunity as heroes to the people and meting out proper justice fits the bill perfectly – and whether the emperor started it or not, there's no denying that it was a solution tailor-made for his very specific problem.

Other sources claim that the Yoddha were remnants of the Kalinga military. According to some historical records, at the time before Ashoka's campaign, Kalinga was partially a [democracy](#) (with a monarchical parliament) – a rarity in the [ancient world](#). Whatever remained of its forces were scattered following the brutal conquest of the kingdom, and they may have chosen to retaliate against their aggressor. Historian and archeologist [J.P. Gavaskar](#) has pointed out that as late as 258 BCE there are reports of [Varada Samrat](#), one of Kalinga's commanders, engaging in banditry and robbery within Ashoka's realm. However, these reports grow less and eventually disappear, with no mention of what eventually happened to Samrat and his followers. This coincides with a rise in reports of those calling themselves the Ashkhas Yoddha, which, according to Gavaskar, signifies the possibility that Samrat had witnessed the change in Ashoka's rule and chosen to stop his raiding and begin a sort of 'vigilante-ism' to serve the new nation that he was now a part of. This viewpoint has been heavily criticized by other historians, some of whom have called the last part as assumption backed by no concrete evidence and even bordering on romanticism. Gavaskar, however, points out that the theory not only explains the Yoddha's approach to justice (as former soldiers of a democracy they would've had both the training and the will to intervene in what they perceived as social wrongs) but also the inconsistency in the accounts of the organization: they would have been forced to mercenary work to survive after the defeat of Kalinga, but their later activities would have served the people, which would account for the discrepancies. Gavaskar regards Samrat to be the founding father of the Ashkhas Yoddha.



**Left:** Map Of Ashoka Maurya's Kingdom: the empire covered the entirety of the Indian subcontinent except modern-day [Kerala](#), [Karnataka](#), and [Tamil Nadu](#).

It has also been suggested that the group was created and led by one of Ashoka's unknown sons (Ashoka had multiple wives and children, and most of them were unrecorded in history) which may have been why they were left alone by the Emperor. Pakistani historian [V.R. Bashir](#) has also pointed that the word 'Ashkhas' does not exist in [any Indian language](#), but is [Arabic](#) in origin, meaning 'people'. Considering the Yoddhas' reputation and name, this is a highly convenient coincidence; Bashir believes it is a valuable clue that may someday shed light on the true origin of the ancient order. In his book [India and its Neighbours](#), he points out: "If you consider the fact that India at the time had very strong trade and diplomatic relations with the Persian Empire and the other northern regions that are today known as Afghanistan and Iraq, we cannot ignore the possibility that at least a few of the founding members were of Arab origin – were they nomads who went native? Maybe one of Ashoka's unknown wives was a Persian princess who bore a mysterious child? Who knows? Until concrete evidence is found, we can only speculate."

## 1.2 Spread Outside India

After the [fall of the Mauryan Empire](#), report of the society's activities trail off and disappear. It has been speculated that, since the last Mauryan king [Brihadratha](#) was overthrown and assassinated by a coup led by the his then Commander-In-Chief [Pushyamitra](#) of the [Shunga dynasty](#), whatever leadership and resources that the Yoddha may have been receiving from the Mauryan empire may have withered away, leaving them not just weak but also scattered.

Historians such as Wellings, who have tracked the Order from its first rumored appearance have pointed out that though it may have died away in India at the time, concrete accounts have been found from as far away as Egypt from 1<sup>st</sup> Century BCE onwards, many of which speak of bands of mercenaries with common descriptions of characteristics and strategy that match the earlier records of the Yoddha. Wellings, however, admits that the dots connected through history in this regard are speculative, and cannot be accepted as concrete evidence. "The pattern may only be there because we want to see it there, and it's difficult to separate fact from assumption. What we *do* know for fact, though, is that the newly-formed [Indo-Greek Kingdom](#) would vehemently oppose the rule of the Shungas, and under them, the spread of Buddhism that began under Ashoka would flourish whereas, according to many accounts, King Pushyamitra persecuted the Buddhist faith in favor of Hinduism. Was he hunting the Order? It would make sense; he would've known if any of its members had escaped alive from his coup. And why did the Greeks, a polytheistic people, so quickly and easily embrace the practice of Buddhism, which does not acknowledge the existence of deities? Now, it's possible that this is just another of the many, many coincidences about the Ashkhas Yoddha that seem to litter the annals of history, but just how many of those should we ignore again and again?"

### 1.2.1 Greece

The exact domains controlled by the Indo-Greek Kingdom is unknown and is heavily debated. After its demise, once again, reports matching the Yoddha's description have cropped up, this time in Greece, consistent with the timeline and the ideology of "wandering warriors". [Appian Of Alexandria](#), a Greece-born Roman historian who wrote extensively on the [Roman Republican Civil Wars](#), also compiled a similar series of monographs that collected accounts of gangs of mercenaries that he suspected were affiliated and "motivated by ideology rather than just the promise of coin". The

group's tactics and techniques detailed by Appian curiously fit another account given by [Megasthenes of Greece](#), an envoy of Alexander who was sent to [Pataliputra](#) during the reign of Ashoka's grandfather, [Chandragupta Maurya](#).

### 1.2.2 China

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[India-China Relations](#) were strong during the [early centuries](#), and there are well-documented records of the travels of prominent Indian and Chinese individuals. By another coincidence, these include those such as [Buddhabhadra or Batuo](#), the first abbot of the [Shaolin Monastery](#), as well as [Bodhidharma](#), who is credited for bringing [Chan Buddhism](#) to China and also for beginning the tradition of training the monks of the Shaolin monastery in physical skills and martial arts, eventually leading to the creation of [Shaolin Kung Fu](#). It is unknown if Bodhidharma was a member of the Ashkhas Yoddha, and there are no historical documents that even suggest this, but the teachings of Shaolin Kung Fu do share some similarities with the early reports of the Yoddha.

### 1.2.3 Japan

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By 8<sup>th</sup> century, India and Japan had consistent cultural exchanges. Ancient records from the now-destroyed library at [Nalanda University](#) in India describe scholars and pupils who attended the school from Japan during the period. Nearly five centuries later, during the [Kamakura period in Japan](#), there is a record by a Japanese Samurai which speaks of five warriors "from a southern land" who fought alongside the Japanese against the [Mongol invasions of Kublai Khan](#). The account is written by [Matsui Masutaro](#), who describes the events and the warriors in detail but admits that he knows nothing of their origins, other than that they were "[ronin](#)" by lineage, after their ancestors had lost what they served". It is unknown whether these are Masutaro's own words or whether he was quoting what one of the warriors told him, but since "ronin" in that period referred to wandering masterless warriors (whether from the death or fall of their master or after loss of their master's favor or privilege), "ronin by lineage" would mean the warriors were ronin from birth, and "their ancestors had lost what they served" would refer to the warriors' forefathers becoming masterless and choosing to wander instead. This description fits the Yoddha, assuming that they left the Maurya Kingdom after its fall and would have wandered as per their tenets, passing the teachings to their children.

## 1.3 Decline

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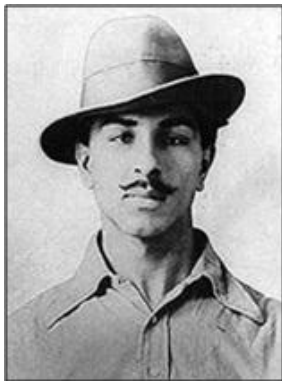
By the 15<sup>th</sup> century, even vague descriptions that may have matched the Yoddha disappear completely from history, with the latest account being from [Farooq-al-Mian](#), a Delhi historian who lived during the reign of [Akbar](#) in India. It is likely, then, that even if the Order was alive at the time, they did not survive into the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century, since by then Mughal Empire had weakened severely and there are no mentions of those matching the Yoddha's description in any of the accounts of the [Sack Of Delhi](#) by [Nadir Shah](#), which left the city looted and pillaged with thousands of bodies strewn in the street.

## 1.4 Revival during British Rule and embrace of Anarchism

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The fractured nature of the Indian states played heavily into the failure of early uprisings such as the [Vellore Mutiny](#) and the [1857 Revolt](#), and there are no documented claims of the Ashkhas Yoddha until as late as the 1920s. After the formation of the Hindustan Republican Association, which later became the [Hindustan Socialist Republican Army](#) under the leadership of prominent revolutionary figures such as [Chandrashekhar Azad](#) and [Bhagat Singh](#), support for an open rebellion (as opposed to [Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence movement](#)) gained further support, especially among the youth.

Many of the HSRA's documents, such as its manifesto, *The Revolutionary*, were captured by the authorities and presented as evidence in the [Kakori Conspiracy case of 1925](#), and some revealed details about the organization's membership; most members were suspected revolutionaries, but the files also mentioned two men, who were (unusually) unnamed, and only described as "our comrades from the south". The duo appear to have participated in many of the HSRA's meetings and helped plan their activities, but there are no photographs or further details other than an additional note that refers to them as "Durga Bhabhi's guests". "Durga Bhabhi" is a clear reference to [Durgawati Devi](#), the wife of HSRA member [Bhagwati Charan Vohra](#), known as Bhabhi (Elder Sister-in-law) among the revolutionaries. Devi is famous for having helped Bhaghat Singh [escape from Lahore after the assassination of officer Saunders](#); Devi and Singh disguised themselves as a rich upper-class couple, carrying her baby son on her lap and accompanied by another HSRA member [Rajguru](#), who carried their luggage pretending to be their servant; the group passed unrecognized and unimpeded through checkpoints.



**Left:** A famous photograph of Bhagat Singh in disguise.

**Above:** Only known photograph of [Durgawati Devi](#), AKA "Durga Bhabhi", with her husband and son.

Simon Wellings has pointed out that though she has gone unnoticed by history, Durga Devi is "an extremely interesting character, and there is no question that she was much more than what she let on to be." Wellings points out a few proven facts to support his conclusions: one, Durga was unusually active in the HSRA's activities, at a time when almost all female freedom fighters were supporting Gandhi's non-violent stance. She aided and abetted in assassination attempts and bombings, she was instrumental in Singh's escape, and she continued to be of influence after her husband's death in 1930. Two: there is no further record of her until after India's Independence in 1947, when she is known to have returned to live in [Ghaziabad](#), living an unassuming, quiet, almost isolated life.

All this in itself doesn't mean anything – but what does make it meaningful are documents recovered from the Japanese military, kept during the Second World War.

- Wellings

Said documents once again mention two men from India, who, under the leadership of [Subhash Chandra Bose](#), took part in facilitating the relationship between the [Azad Fauj Hind \(Free Indian National Army\)](#) and the [Japanese Army](#). The files also mention a woman, whom the two men referred to respectfully as "Bhabhi". None of them were concretely identified in the records, and are only referred to by the specific title of "Ashkhas Yoddha", which makes the first documented mention of the group in centuries. Says Wellings:

This is where it gets interesting. The Japanese made special note of this, as women did not serve in either the Indian or Japanese forces at the time, and it was unusual for her to be a part of a military delegation. Of course, once again, it is perfectly possible that the two men (who were left nameless in the records again) were two completely different men, and the Bhabhi who they spoke to with such respect was a different woman in the revolutionary movement. After all, "Bhabhi" is a common honorific used in India. It is also possible that these mysterious figures, who helped plan and arrange an anti-

British operation before disappearing - thus repeating the modus operandi that two other mysterious figures had displayed nearly a decade and a half ago - were simply unrelated to each other. Yet another coincidence. Sure, why not?

INA's activities, though unsuccessful in [defending Burma from the British campaign](#), ultimately did tip the scales towards independence, as the widespread sympathy and protests sparked off when the British held the [Red Fort Trials](#) severely weakened their position with the Indian people.

Wellings proposed and maintains the position that the Yoddha re-formed under British oppression, this time heavily influenced by Bhagat Singh's philosophy of [anarchism](#), embracing it completely for the achievement of their goals.

## 1.5 During Partition and after Independence

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### 1.5.1 Indian Annexation of Hyderabad

Whatever plans the newly-resurged AY might have had are unknown, and likely went unfulfilled since the [Partition of India in 1947](#) effectively tore the nation in two. Records indicate, however that the Order recovered from the blow quickly enough: they are next mentioned in a journal kept by the [Nizam Osman Ali Khan](#), then ruler of [Hyderabad State](#), who had chosen to keep his state separate from the [Dominion of India](#) and was collaborating with [Pakistan](#). The people of the state, who at the time were facing communal riots between the Hindu-Muslim communities, were also being harassed by a privately formed militia calling themselves the [Razakars](#), with several land-seizings and outbreaks of violence. The Nizam, meanwhile, wrote in his journal that these Razakars were facing severe resistance from a small group of guerilla fighters, who were not locals but seemed to be heavily trained in unconventional methods of warfare. The group only identified themselves as "Ashkhas" (People) and, by the time the Indian Armed Forces had intervened in Hyderabad to annex the state by force through [Operation Polo](#), they had once again vanished from both the spotlight and their place in history.

### 1.5.2 Bangladesh Liberation War

Though Indian Intervention in Bangladesh during the [liberation war](#) is documented in detail, the efforts of Indian agents who infiltrated enemy territory to carry out numerous guerilla operations are not as well known. In spite of an openly-declared conflict for the independence of a neighboring nation, India chose to rely heavily on these tactics of unconventional warfare, which scattered resistance quickly during the [Indo-Pakistan War of 1971](#). This made the conventional army's work much easier, resulting in the entire [Pakistani Army in Bangladesh surrendering to India](#) on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1971, the largest military surrender since World War II. While the army and the [Mukhti Bhakini Resistance movement](#) in Bangladesh focused on fighting Pakistani forces in the eastern front, this second unconventional army, sent agents across both the eastern and western border, wreaking havoc across Pak forces. This unusual army was led by [General Muhammad Osmani](#), a retired East Pakistani military officer who was eventually appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladeshi Forces. Before his death in 1972, Osmani admitted that both the resistance and the Indian Army had been aided by groups of guerillas, who openly referred to themselves as Ashkhas Yoddha and unleashed a series of severe terror tactics on smaller Pakistani outposts, greatly increasing the panic created by war. The fighters were never identified, although Osmani himself suspected that they were a deniable force backed by India.



### 1.5.3 Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan

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[During the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan](#), [Ahmad Shah Massoud](#) led the Resistance movement against the Russians, and at the time, India was staunchly allied with the USSR, and had chosen not to interfere. Massoud, knowing that it would be immensely difficult to overthrow the Russians by direct confrontation, relied almost entirely on [asymetric warfare](#) through unconventional means. Between 1980 and 1985, the Soviets carried out [a series of regular attacks](#) to cripple Massoud's position in the Panjshir, but were repeatedly thwarted. Massoud's forces fell back into fortified positions, and laid ambushes for the advancing army. They were aided in this by a number of unknown troops, who moved in small units, lightly armed, and carried out surveillance on the Soviets, radioing enemy positions for ambushes and mortar attacks. USSR records indicate that these units never engaged them directly, and operated in an observational capacity. At the time, the U.S, which was supporting the Afghan Resistance, was developing modern techniques for [Long Range Surveillance](#) in warfare, and it was initially believed that these were covert American troops. However, after one such unit was captured and interrogated, the Soviets realized that the team was consisted of South Asians, though they were not Afghan locals. The prisoners were killed in an escape attempt before their identity could be established, and an autopsy report revealed that they were both uncircumcised, making it highly unlikely that they were Muslims. Realizing that the



Afghans were receiving aid from a source that was both well-trained in advanced unconventional warfare and was also an X-factor in the conflict, USSR troops were given standing orders to capture or kill these units on sight. Though several such attempts were made, none succeeded again – and on the one occasion that a team of two were cornered to the point of capture, both committed suicide, and were discovered to have cyanide pills secreted in amulets worn around their necks.

**Left:** [Ahmad Shah Massoud](#), also known as "The Lion of Panjshir."

The mysterious surveillance units' tactics achieved complete success, both in delaying Soviet advancement against Panjshir, and later, when they withdrew, allowing Massoud's forces to take back the captured positions one by one. U.S journalist [Lee Holland](#), who published a famous interview with Massoud, made note of the surveillance units, who "stood out among the troops, and were given a wide berth by the rest of the Afghans. When asked about them, I was simply told that 'some warriors are protected by the Darkness, and one does not speak of them.' ". Later, after the AY's popularity surge, Holland pointed out the possibility that the men had been agents of the Yoddha, especially in light of the fact that, after the Taliban's takeover of the country, Massoud approached India for help when he was denied U.S aid.

**Below:** [Taliban](#) militia in front of the hijacked plane in [Kandahar](#).

India supported Massoud's forces in Afghanistan, and to this day, it is unknown who facilitated the relationship, considering India was the only South Asian nation to recognize the [Soviet-backed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan](#) and the [Soviet Union's military presence](#) in Afghan territories. In 1999, the [Indian Airlines Flight 814](#) was hijacked and eventually landed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where it was surrounded by Taliban





fighters who were suspected of aiding the hijackers and trying to prevent India from taking back control of the flight by military action. This led to India increasing the aid to the Northern Alliance, however, Massoud was assassinated by a suicide bomber on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001, two days before the 9/11 attacks.

[Afghanistan-India Relations](#) have thrived since then, in spite of (and perhaps even because of) very minimal military intervention from India. India helped in the rebuilding of roads and facilities, infrastructure, and training of government officials. Numerous attacks on India's interests in Afghanistan, such as the [bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul](#), has not deterred the partnership between the two nations, and the [India-Afghanistan Friendship Dam](#) was inaugurated in 2016 by the Prime Ministers of Both Nations. Analysts have suggested that India's careful diplomatic involvement may have successfully prevented [ISIS](#) from gaining a much bigger foothold in the region.

### 1.5.4 Rise in Popularity

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The group rose into sudden and quick popularity following the series of incidents now known as the [Millennium Assassinations](#), which eliminated systemically several high-profile targets such [Sayid Ahmad Khan](#), [Roy Guinness](#), [Rory Sheffield](#), [Basha Khatri](#) and many others. The AY publicly claimed credit for each incident, without further comment. As their popularity soared, so did membership, and by 2010 the Order by most estimates had two million recruits, although most were online-only members.

## 2. Ideology

Though founded as a type of "errant warriors", the society's modern-day ideology is one of open anarchism and liberalism. The website that invites recruits described it as "A society of people – not great, noble patriots or some kind of saints – but ordinary people who have had enough of the world being run by old rich men who want to keep all the wealth of the globe for themselves and want to tear the system down". Even though different members of the AY from different parts of the world do express different views, this has not stopped membership or voluntary participation. One anonymous member, known only by his online alias, [Ragnar Blackmane](#), posted on the group's message boards: "Difference of opinion forms the natural way of human society; dissent is not oppression. Oppression of dissent is oppression. You are welcome to disagree and call us names. We support your right to do that."

## 3. Activities & Secrecy

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A vast majority of the AY operates on a non-profit basis, and most have never even been suspected of illegal activities. In spite of this, the organization continues to claim responsibility for various acts on a regular basis, including the release of government or private sensitive documents through [wikileaks](#), [whistleblowing](#), [hacktivism](#) and real-world action, including violence and killings. Almost all of the targets have been known or suspected criminals.

In 2013, a report made by the [FBI](#) to a Judiciary Panel pointed out that "The AY are not a secret, and they have no desire to *be* a secret. They want to be seen. They want the spotlight. Because in this day and age, they know that that is the safest place for an organization such as theirs. With the internet and the widespread propagation of conspiracy theories there are no secret societies any more, everything sooner or later gets dragged out into the open. It would seem that the Yoddha recognized this in advance: they have chosen instead to hide in plain sight, to make sure, essentially, that only the elite in their organization know where the public version of their world ends and where the shadowy one begins. It is possible that they recruit their inner members from the large number of minor members, maybe they do it exclusively

from outside their minor member pool to ensure security; we've had intelligence from credible sources suggesting both. And that's the point: unlike every other organization that tries to operate in secret, there's no lack of information about the AY. Instead, there is so much supposedly "concrete" information available on them that it is impossible to know where the myth ends and the reality begins. They have shrewdly armored themselves with rumor and legend, falsehoods and hidden truths, and this has protected them more effectively than any encryption or secret handshake."

## 4. Methods

In their beginning days, the Yoddha relied on [assassination](#), intimidation and direct military action; but their techniques have progressed today into [misinformation](#), [espionage](#), [unconventional warfare](#), and precise [covert ops](#).

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Order uses numerous methods to carry out their activities, from direct but peaceful protests to [DDoS attacks](#) and [hacking](#). [The Millennium Assassinations](#) were carried out by a combination of [sniper attacks](#), [bombings](#), poisonings, and, on rare occasions, [hand-to-hand and melee fighting](#). The group also participates in facilitating whistleblowers and anti-corporate activities.

## 5. Membership

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The exact nature of the AY's recruitment methods are not known, but the public website that claims to officially represent the AY offers open registration to all visitors, and allows registered users to post in the message boards and participate in discussions. Although the site has been banned multiple times by many countries and ISPs, this has proven ineffective thanks to the popular usage of proxy servers, proxy sites, and VPNs. Real-world members are often chosen from the site's online members, usually depending on location, and invited to participate in peaceful and/or legal activities such as protests. Multiple attempts have been made around the globe to infiltrate the inner circle of the organization by signing up online and trying to gain the trust of existing members, but this has so far not yielded significant results.

## 6. Known Members

*See also: [List of known and alleged members of the Ashkshas Yoddha](#)*

### 6.1 Public Members

Ragnar Blackmane – Known only by his internet alias, Blackmane is the administrator of the AY's public website, and thus far has evaded attempts to track down his real-world identity and location.

[Anwar Kumar](#)– Kumar was an Indian [CBI](#) officer who was accused of leaking classified documents to an unknown source; it is believed that he was passing information about the [1992-93 Bombay Riots](#) and the subsequent [retaliatory bombings](#) by [Dawood Ibrahim](#) in 1993. Several of those accused in perpetrating both the riots and the bombings were killed in 1994, presumably based on information provided by Kumar. There were also unconfirmed reports of two separate attempts on Ibrahim's life, after which he fled India and went into hiding, and is today speculated to be living in Pakistan, where the AY do not have any significant presence. Kumar, though tried for his crimes, was eventually released due to lack of evidence.

[Seena Harsha](#) – A popular Bollywood actress, Harsha openly supports the AY and is routinely active in the website and message boards.

[James Herbert](#) – An Australian writer and journalist, Herbert runs a publicly-known meeting place for AY members. Though vocal in his membership, he has not been charged or accused of any crime.

[Shafiq Ahmed](#) – A U.S-born Muslim who eventually became an apostate and an atheist, Ahmed runs a yoga studio in New York City. He has been audited several times by the IRS and subjected to FBI investigation twice, and is currently engaged in a lawsuit against the Bureau for harassment.

## 6.2 Sameer Rafiq

[Sameer Rafiq](#) was a cyber-security engineer working for [HCL Technologies](#), who surrendered to a team of CBI officers in 2012, claiming to be a former member of the AY who was now being hunted by the Yoddha. Rafiq provided a large volume of information on the AY's methods and history, although a lot of it remains unconfirmed. He volunteered to testify against several prominent members of the organization, whom he named. He also testified before the U.S Senate and gave a highly publicized interview to [NDTV](#) in 2014. During the interview, he grew increasingly paranoid, and ended up attacking the interviewer, Neha Shastri, accusing her to be an AY member trying to discredit him. He was removed by studio security, and a counter-suit was filed by the defending lawyers of those accused by Rafiq to get him declared mentally unstable. Rafiq died of cancer before the trials could begin, which ended the legal proceedings against those he had accused. Till his death, Rafiq maintained that the AY had "given him cancer", and that they were secretly interfering in his treatment to ensure a slow and painful death. Doctors have suggested that his inoperable tumor, which did not respond well to chemotherapy, may have affected his mental health as well as physical towards his end days.

## 7. Suspected Incidents

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AY involvement has been suspected in numerous incidents since the late eighties.

March 26, 1989 – [Sagar Damu Assassination](#) – A convicted crime lord in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, was shot and killed by an assailant who successfully made his escape on a motorcycle.

September 4, 1992 – [Niskara House Bombing](#) – A known prayer hall for Muslims in Cochin, Kerala, suspected of harboring Pakistani-backed terrorists, was bombed by a car, killing 8 inside and injuring 13 others.

January 19, 1993 – Two men, Ajay Sivan and Karan Ranjith, both members of the Hindu nationalist and right-wing party [Shiv Sena](#), suspected of inciting the Bombay Riots, were shot dead outside a bar in Mumbai.

May 10, 1993 – Ahammad Osmani, one of the senior members of [D-Company](#), Dawood Ibrahim's organized crime syndicate, was stabbed to death in a public road. Though the suspect was apprehended, he escaped police custody soon after.

May 14, 1993 – [James Camden](#), public member of the [Ku Klux Klan](#), was killed by an armed man with a shotgun. Earlier that year, Camden had killed a Bangladeshi family and signed his name with their blood before going into hiding.

June 20, 1995 – Four former members of the [Hells Angels Motorcycle Club](#) were killed by a bomb hidden in a motorcycle, which went off when the ignition was turned on.

December 1996 to May 2009 – [The Millennium Assassinations](#) took place around the world, killing several high-profile targets associated with organized crime, terrorism, and extremist groups. For the first time in the organization's history, the AY publicly claimed responsibility for the attacks.

August 17 2009 – Five simultaneous murders took place in Sydney, London, and Berlin, killing the perpetrators of the [1998 Yorkshire Massacre](#), who had scattered and taken shelter under assumed identities around the world. Interpol pointed out that the attacks were coordinated to happen at the same time, so as to prevent news about the first targets from alerting the rest. Though the AY were implicated, they did not confirm (or deny) the claim. Since then, however, the group has consistently and publicly taken responsibility for any attacks carried out by members.

## 8. Reports & Excerpts from Witnesses & Historians

The following are reports and excerpts made by people who have had direct or indirect contact with the AY.

### 8.1 Megasthenes

[Megasthenes of Greece](#): (c. 350 – c. 290 BC)

The Indus is a vast and beautiful land, and its people much like the Greeks in many ways. I have travelled with my guides across this realm, and even our Gods are alike. The Indians worship Herakles in their own way, and believe that he conquered a great five-headed snake by stomping each head<sup>[1]</sup>, and this seems a retold story of Herakles' fight against the Hydra, and the more I travel this kingdom, the more I see how alike we are in many things, yet how different. They have a fruit here, which is salty and hard when it is green, and can be used in spiced pickles when plucked thus, yet if allowed to ripen it will become a golden color, and the inside a pulpy yellow, which is as sweet and delicious as honey itself. They call this the King of Fruits, for the many ways in which it can be used cooked, raw and ripe, and it is difficult to disagree<sup>[2]</sup>.

Across all the land, however, nothing has impressed me as much as the elephants; great, lumbering yet magnificent beasts that are used for everything from burden to war. It is said they greatly troubled Alexander himself during the Battle Of Hydaspes, and I do not find this claim an exaggeration<sup>[3]</sup>. But the incident of Porus' fight against Alexander has caused the other kings to look for a change in battle techniques, as I found out by accident one day, wandering the palace of Pataliputra, coming upon a strange group of warriors training in the courtyard. They were not practicing drills in unanimous movements, as soldiers do, but instead every man took turns to enter the centre spot, whereupon he was attacked by several others, and, once he had successfully held off or fallen to the drill, another would take his place. What's more, there were a few women in the group, and were clearly learning the same difficult techniques. The training seemed focused in teaching fighting against multiple opponents, as though to participate in a kind of battle not as yet devised by man. When my guide caught up to me he seemed disturbed, and it was clear that I was not supposed to have witnessed any of this. The captain overseeing the fighters said something curtly to my guide, and I was ushered away quickly.

I asked what I had just seen, and was not given a straight answer.

"Some battles are fought differently than others." He said, "And King Chandragupta is preparing us to wage a new kind of war, should it become necessary. Likely they will only be used far in the future – or not at all, I hope." I did not understand what he meant.

1. Megasthenes is speaking of the story of [Krishna](#) defeating the evil snake Kaliya. Later in his texts, Megasthenes maintained that the people of India worshipped Hercules.
2. The historian is describing [mangoes](#) here, which, to this day, are eaten raw, and also used both in spicy cuisine (when cooked while raw-green) and in desserts (the ripened version).
3. Alexander's campaign to conquer the world ended with the [Battle Of Hydaspes](#), where he gained a pyrrhic victory over King Porus, whose army had dozens of War Elephants.

## 8.2 Simon Wellings

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[Simon Wellings](#); historian, author, indologist, professor. (January 13, 1969 – )

For nearly twenty years, I have chronicled the rise and fall of the Ashkhas Yoddha through the Ages. Some have called it an unhealthy obsession; others have praised it for a dedication shown to a part of history that has since then become relevant to our time. Regardless of which one it truly is, they have been my life's work, and I have tirelessly put in the effort in becoming the foremost expert on the AY. I never took the things that I wanted to find on faith, because I knew it would eschew my findings, and have always tried to maintain impartiality in my works.

All that changed the day the AY visited my house.

I do not know if I will ever choose to publish this document, since it is likely to make me sound like a kook, and also because – as will soon become obvious – I myself am not entirely sure of the events which transpired that night. I admit this openly, and warn anyone looking into the AY that, if they ever do lay eyes on this, to beware of reading ahead with foregone conclusions, which will result in false assumptions and belief. A historian by nature has to be a skeptic, and I do not endorse any view on these events one way or the other.

My security system at the time was a simple one, installed once and forgotten except to instinctually enter the alarm code as I walked into my house. It could also control the lights and all electronics digitally from a touchpad, which seemed a bit much for me when I first had it set up, but have grown fond of and dependent on ever since. It had become second nature for me, when I returned late at night, to push the door in, enter the code in the dark with my usual bag of groceries still held under one arm, and then "wake up" the house with a few taps on the tablet, which I keep next to the door for this purpose.

That night was just like any other – I parked in the shed, pulled out the groceries, and went up to the door as the shed closed up automatically behind me. Everything was quiet. It wasn't until I was inside, having disabled the alarm, put the bag down, and tried to bring the house alive that I realized something was wrong.

The lights weren't responding.

My first thought was that the power was out. Then I remembered the porchlight was still on, so that couldn't be the case. Maybe there was short-circuit? I was wondering if I had my electrician's number on my phone or whether I just kept it in my office diary, when the voice spoke.

"Hello, Mr. Wellings."

I nearly fell over; needless to say, this was unexpected.

"It's all right," said a second voice, "We don't mean you any harm."

I fumbled behind me for the door's handle. It turned but wouldn't open. I tried a couple more times and the clicks echoed around the house.

"The door has been locked." Explained the first voice, as though all of this was completely normal. "You need to calm down."

"Wh – who are you?"

A chuckle.

"Strange question, coming from you." The first voice again. It was deep and spoke in a clear, clipped accent that was usual among South Asians.

"What is that supposed to mean?"

"You've spent your entire adult life studying us, Mr. Wellings. So we thought you'd like to speak directly to us for a change."

My heart, which had calmed down for a moment after the initial shock, began to race again. Was he saying what I thought he was saying?

"You – what?"

"You heard."

Silence reigned for a long time. I then picked up the tablet and tapped it again.

"The lights have been disabled." The second voice. "You can put that down."

I turned the device forward, trying to see around me with the light of the screen. I could make out only about two feet in front of me, and whoever the intruders were, they seemed to be seated at the dining table, judging by their voices. I took a step forward.

"I advise you not to come any farther. It would be foolish."

I stood there, breathing heavily, then fumbled in my pocket.

"We know about the flashlight you keep in your pocket. We know your phone has a light, too. We also know about the pen knife. I suggest all those things be kept exactly where they are."

"Thi-this is my house," I stammered, finding my voice at last, "You can't just break in here!"

"We didn't. We were invited."

"By who?"



"You, Mr. Wellings. Your interview with HBO. Didn't you say – what was it?"

" 'I would love to speak to the AY face-to-face.' " My own voice spoke out from the dark, emanating from a recording. " 'Regardless of whether they are 'good' or 'bad', I have followed their organization through the centuries and would love to make a personal account, impartially of course.' "

"Your words, right?" The first voice again. "Did you not mean them? I mean, granted, we took some liberties, but things being the way they are it isn't exactly an appointment we can make over the phone. Security and all that."

Slowly, the situation sank in. *The AY were in my house.*

"You're the AY?" I asked.

"Yes."

"Prove it." It came out a bit more harsh and demanding than I had intended.

"Hmmm... I can't say I didn't expect that."

"How do I know you're not some nutjob? Or the RAW, or the CIA, or something, trying to get information out of me?"

"That last concern is easily dispelled. We don't need any information about ourselves from you."

"But still – "

"Yes, security and all that. All right, I'll give you proof. On one condition."

"Yes?"

"Simple; you will forget what I am going to tell you. You will not speak of it, you will not refer to it, not even to the person I am about to mention."

"All right."

"Morgana sends her love."

I felt the breath go out of me. The memory of a wild, passionate night flashed in my brain. Morgana, a hacker, alleged member of the AY (though she had denied it at the time), known only by her alias – and I was one of the very few people who had seen her face. I had never disclosed this information. To anyone.

"Are you all right?" The voice seemed genuinely concerned. "We put one of your chairs to the left of the door, you really should sit down."

I steadied myself, and moved to the left. Something stubbed against my shoe, and I reached out and felt the outline of my favorite wicker chair. I sat down.

"I'm seated." I said.

"We can see." The second voice.

"Night vision goggles?" I asked.

Another chuckle.

"I like him," a third voice said. It was female, and seemed to be coming from the couch in front of the TV.

"How many of you are here?" I asked.

"Doesn't matter. The salient point is this: you have an opportunity that you said you wanted. Ask away."

I felt stunned. What do you ask a myth that you have been following your entire life, when it comes alive before you?"

"I think he's tongue-tied." Said the woman. From her tone, she seemed to be smiling.

"I'm not." I claimed. "All right, so how much of it is true?"

"How much of what?"

"The rumors about you."

"Who can tell?" I had a vision of a figure sitting in the dark and raising his arms in a shrug. "We've always encouraged rumors, and they've always swirled around us. Some of them we started. Others spread by themselves. At this point, even we don't know all the rumors that are circulating about us."

"Fair enough. So, what exactly is it that you do, and why do you do it?"

"The AY, as it was originally formed – and you already know most of this – were a mixed-objective organization. There is some contention about who the first members were and what they did."

"You mean you don't know?"

"Records were kept, but most of the documents are lost. We know a little more than you do, but that's it."

"But after the HSRA – "

"*There* we do have records, and when we were re-formed."

"So that *is* how it happened."

"Yes. The goal of the organization, of course, was Independence, and they did play a role. What would happen after was a question that nobody had bothered to think about; likely they thought they would get to disband and lead normal lives."

"But that didn't happen."

"Obviously. The tensions that followed 1947 saw to that. Again, I believe at some point members thought to just walk away, but one crisis led to another and then another, and so on and so forth. We fought in the National Emergency of 1975, something which no one has suspected so far, not even you."

I gasped. In 1975, I knew, Prime Minister Gandhi had been found guilty of Election Fraud, and, instead of stepping down, had seized control of the nation via a motion to Rule by Decree. "You overthrew Indira Gandhi." I said.

"We certainly had a hand in it, and even managed to do it without large-scale bloodshed. Of course, she came back into power again, and this time blood *did* flow."

"What about later, in 1984?" I asked. Ms. Gandhi had come back into power later on, and she had ordered a military attack on a Sikh Temple, carried out with tanks and armored vehicles rolling on roads on domestic soil. The outcry caused by this only ended when she was shot dead by two Sikh men who were among her bodyguards. This had resulted in the [1984 anti-Sikh riots](#), one of the darkest periods in the country's history. "Did you have a hand in her assassination?"

"I wish. We should've killed her the first time around. As it is, the country suffered."

"And your continued existence today?"

"As individuals who had the right connections with each other, we had both the resources and the knowledge to intervene in affairs we thought were detrimental to society. And on occasion, we did, and continue to do so."

"But declaring yourself judge, jury and executioner – "

"Don't be naive, Mr. Wellings. Everyone in the world breaks rules. There's likely not a human being alive who hasn't engaged in tax evasion, bribery, or some other form of lawbreaking. Laws don't run the world. People do."

I could not think of a response to that.

"Do you have an end goal? The eradication of these...detrimental forces, so to speak?"

"If such were possible, then the situation wouldn't exist in the first place. Utopia is a dream. It is best not to confuse it with reality."

"Why do you do this?"

"Why shouldn't we? A free society is profitable to all. As Bhagat Singh once said, "I am a man, and all that affects mankind is my concern." It is a narrow-minded view that our concern should extend only to those immediate to us. It is also our concern when strangers are killed, raped, their rights withheld, violated."

"But you're anarchists. By definition, you don't support the idea of order."

"You are speaking of Anarchism as began, a long time ago – a version such as that no longer exists. Human beings cannot live without leadership or representation. Throw ten people on an island and the survivors will follow a leader – on the basis of intelligence, strength, whatever. The "true anarchy" that you speak of – without assembly, leadership and society, would inevitably result in disorder. Anarchism as it has become today, however, is the belief that every human being has a right to a free life without interference – without persecution. It is secularism that extends to all facets of life and not just religion."

"Don't spew philosophy," The woman's voice said. It sounded a bit muffled. "You'll bore him to sleep."

"Are you sleepy, Mr. Wellings?" He sounded muffled, as well.

"No." I'd never been more awake in my life.

"Well, you be sure to let me know if you begin to nod off."

"So that's it? You do what you do because your resources and history put you in a position to do it?"

"Isn't that why all world-changing actions are taken? The right – or wrong – person in the appropriate place and time, and the future we were looking forward to becomes "what would have been"."

"Philosophy!"

"Sorry."

Silence. I had no idea what to ask next. At least I had no idea what to ask to which they would be willing to give an honest reply.

"The Millennium Assassinations?" I gave it a try.

"The biggest operation of our existence. The culmination of information gathered, and plans laid, through decades of being in the right place at the right time."

"There were some accusations about the authenticity of – "

"I am aware."

"Sameer Rafiq made allegations that – "

"I am aware."

"Was he – "

"We are not getting into that. Make of it what you will."

"Oh."

"My turn." The man said. "Why is it *you* do what you do, Mr. Wellings?"

"What do you mean?"

"Your... dedication towards learning our story. Why?"

"It was interesting. I was attracted to it."

"That's it?"

"That's it. That interest became a passion, passion became papers that were published, those papers became known, and then it was a career, and here we are now."

The second male voice swore loudly. "Really?" He asked. His voice, too, sounded muffled. The first voice chuckled. "I win. My friend here owes me a fifty."

"You made a bet?"

"I bet that your interest in us was purely academic, yes. Life isn't a movie. Not everyone has an origin story."

"That is true, I s-supp...ose..." I blinked, not believing what was happening.

I was feeling sleepy.

"What's the matter? Falling asleep?"

"Yes," I managed, "What – what did you do?"

"Gas. You'll have a headache, I'm afraid, but that's it. Security and all that, Mr. Wellings, I'm sorry."

*That's why the voices had become muffled*, I realized; they had put on gas masks.

The darkness swirled as it pressed into my eyes. The last thing I remembered was seeing vague shapes moving, and the man's voice, hearing it as though from a great distance.

"When you wake up," He said, "you may choose what to believe."

The next morning when I came to, it was in my own bed. My security system and the lights were fine. The groceries had been carefully placed in the refrigerator. My chair was in its proper place in my office. On the coffee table in the drawing room one of my whisky bottles stood, glinting in the sunlight streaming in through the window. It was almost empty. A glass stood next to it, along with a bowl of cold water. The table under the bowl was wet, as though it had been full of ice that had melted, and condensation had dripped in the night.

I did not remember drinking the previous night. Was that what had happened? I had come home, drunk almost an entire bottle, fallen asleep and woken up with a hangover after a strange dream? Or had I been visited by three voices that spoke in the darkness, and knocked out with sleeping gas?

*When you wake up, you may choose what to believe.*

What to believe?

I don't know.

### **8.3 Archer Kent Blood** (March 20, 1923 – September 3, 2004)

[Contents](#)

Blood was an American career [diplomat](#) who served as the last [American Consul General](#) to [Dhaka, Bangladesh](#) ([East Pakistan](#) at the time). He is famous for sending the strongly worded "Blood Telegram" protesting against the atrocities committed in the [Bangladesh Liberation War](#). Later in his years, he shared the account of his escape from Bangladesh, admitting that, having vocally declared his dissent against U.S support of the genocide in Bangladesh, he suspected his life may have been in danger.

Towards the second week of April, as we made our way out of Dhaka in the mist of spiraling chaos, I was very much aware of the fact that there was a good chance I wouldn't make it out of the country alive. After the telegram and the stir it had caused, I was now enemy to both sides. I had heard rumors that the Pakistani Army had put a bounty on me – whether or not this is true, I do not know – and I was not confident that I would be treated without hostility by the Indian Forces, who were facing stiff diplomatic resistance from my government. Would it matter to them I had written a few words in anger, when their soldiers were dying and massacres were happening all around them? The news about the attack on Dacca University was still fresh on everyone's minds; many of the young women kidnapped from the campus were still missing, and have been reportedly taken to Dacca Cantonment. The why of this was still unknown. Then one night, my home came under assault.

It's a horrible feeling to realize that someone is shooting at you, that Death lurks just around the corner with the impact of a tiny bullet. I was very much aware of the fact that my life was likely about to end.

It was then that I met the Yoddha.

I do not know if they were the same people who later gained fame as the AY, but there is no denying that there is a certain similarity to the descriptions.

The four men who came to my rescue did not make a dramatic entrance, or yell out loud war cries. I heard more gunfire that seemed to be coming from somewhere farther away, then someone roared in pain, and I heard screams. An explosion. And then, slowly, silence. They appeared as shadows outside the house, called out something in what I recognized was Hindi, and Rashid Hamza, who was my security guard at the time, called something back. I was then escorted out and they did not speak to me directly, or even acknowledge me any significant manner; they dealt directly with Rashid, who was leading us out of the city. I asked him who this mysterious group was, but he declined to answer.

"You must leave," He said simply, "And I will do what I have to to make this happen."

I am confident that they were not part of the Mukthi Bhakhini – for one, they were well-equipped and armed, unlike the Resistance fighters I had seen, who were usually carrying a mish-mash of whatever weapons they had found. For another, they carried themselves with a swagger that made it clear they were career military – or something similar to it, perhaps more sinister.

We set off by car, I was taken to a safe location, and then, as secretively as they had appeared, the foursome disappeared.

#### **8.4 Sameer Rafiq (April 14, 1978 – November 10, 2013)**

[Contents](#)

##### **8.4.1 Interrogation Audio Log**

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Suspect Interrogation of Rafiq, Sameer, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 15:39. Interrogation conducted by CBI Officer Vidhaan Prakash. Also present: Mr. Ajay Rathore, Legal Counsel for Mr. Rafiq.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

So, Mr. Rafiq. You say you have information for the CBI?

SAMEER RAFIQ

I do.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

It seems rather convenient, you coming running to at us promising to name names and point fingers at this time, when we were very close to implicating you in the Raj Crime Syndicate's money laundering operations. Don't you think?

AJAY RATHORE

Don't answer that.

SAMEER RAFIQ

I'm being framed!



AJAY RATHORE

Sameer...

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Uh-huh. Of course you are.

SAMEER RAFIQ

Look, if you knew half of what I knew – if you knew about them... they're everywhere, they're doing this to me!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

And who exactly would this 'they' be, Mr. Rafiq?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Them. The Ashkhas Yoddha.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

I'm sorry, what?

SAMEER RAFIQ

You heard.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Uh-huh.

SAMEER RAFIQ

They're real. They exist.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

We know they exist. They've been claiming responsibility for the Millennium Assas –

SAMEER RAFIQ

You IDIOT!

AJAY RATHORE

Sameer! I apologize for my client's behavior, Mr. Prakash. As you can see, he is very much disturbed by recent events.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

What events would that be?

AJAY RATHORE

He is being continually harassed by the organization calling themselves the AY, not to mention the unethical and borderline abusive investigation into his life by the CBI, the IPS, and –

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Save the bullshit, Counselor.

AJAY RATHORE

I can assure you –

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Your assurances don't mean anything here. What matters is – and you may be familiar with this concept, being in your line of work – all that matters is what you can prove.

SAMEER RAFIQ

I can prove it!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Prove what?

SAMEER RAFIQ

I can prove I'm being framed.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

That would be quite impressive, considering that we have you on tape, taking part in conversations that implicate you in laundering hundreds of crores in illegal income.

AJAY RATHORE

Those tapes came from illegal wiretaps.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

That's for a judge to decide and you're welcome to make that case in court. For now, those tapes are irrefutable evidence that your client is guilty.

SAMEER RAFIQ

It's not me talking in those tapes! It's a Shabdakarka!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

I can't tell if I should be intrigued, or just amused enough to start laughing. A what now?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Look, thousands of years ago, people chosen to serve their cults and factions were sometimes trained in secret techniques, like the Visha Kanya...

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Poison women? The ones who supposedly drank venom mixed with antidotes to make their body fluids poisonous?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Yes.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

They're a myth from Ancient India, what does that have to do with –

SAMEER RAFIQ

They're not a myth! They were real! And they still exist!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Is that right.

SAMEER RAFIQ

There was another class of people like them, who went unrecorded in history – they were picked from an early age for their vocal skills, to mimic the voices and disguises of anyone they chose.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

And those are the Shady-Kooks?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Shabdakarkas!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

And one of them is impersonating you on the tapes from the surveillance equipment we placed in your home, office and phones?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Yes!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Counselor, is your client psychologically unstable?

SAMEER RAFIQ  
I'm the only sane person in the world!

AJAY RATHORE  
Sameer, calm down! Mr. Prakash, as far-fetched as it may seem...

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
You can't be serious.

AJAY RATHORE  
I am.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
I almost hate to ask... but can you prove any of this?

AJAY RATHORE  
We can prove some of it.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Including the existence of the Shawarma-Corks?

AJAY RATHORE  
Well –

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Are you fucking joking with me?

AJAY RATHORE  
But we can prove that Mr. Sameer was not present in the places where those tapes were made, at the times when those tapes were made.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
How?

AJAY RATHORE  
Witnesses, photographs, security video from a Coffee Shop, entry logs of his office, and so on.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
All right, assuming any of this is true...

SAMEER RAFIQ

All of it is true!

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Assuming any of this is true, it brings me to my next question... why would the AY target you like this?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Because... well...

AJAY RATHORE

Go on, it's for the best.

SAMEER RAFIQ

Because I'm – I was – a member of the AY.

AJAY RATHORE

That caught your attention, didn't it?

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

When you say you were a member...

SAMEER RAFIQ

I'm not anymore. That's why they're doing this.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Framing you.

SAMEER RAFIQ

Yes.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

With the voice of the Shader Cocks.

SAMEER RAFIQ

Not the – fine, yes.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Why did you leave the organization?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Because they're liars. They talk like they're some kind of warriors for society, but that's all it is – talk. They're assholes.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
The Millennium Assassinations –

SAMEER RAFIQ  
Were a lie.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Excuse me? The people who were targeted really are dead; we know that for a fact.

SAMEER RAFIQ  
I'm not denying that.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Then?

SAMEER RAFIQ  
They weren't killed by the AY.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
That makes no sense.

SAMEER RAFIQ  
Look, it started with one, okay? Some asshole IRA terrorist took a bullet, and someone in the organization had the bright idea of taking credit to buy some goodwill, because they knew they wouldn't be able to operate in the shadows for long, what with the internet and shit.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH  
Wait a minute, what're you saying, that the Millennium Assassinations were a publicity stunt?

SAMEER RAFIQ  
That's exactly what I'm saying. When some high profile criminal or terrorist died, they just jumped online and said it was them. They did it over and over again, until everybody thought they sun was shining out of their ass –

AJAY RATHORE  
Sameer.

SAMEER RAFIQ  
Anyway, that's what happened.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

When did you join the organization known as the AY?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Right after college, in '93. We were still mostly hidden from the public then.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

We?

SAMEER RAFIQ

They. They were.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

Slip of the tongue?

AJAY RATHORE

Mr. Prakash, please.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

And you are willing to testify about both the membership and the activities of the AY?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Yes.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

You have evidence to back up your accusation?

SAMEER RAFIQ

Some of it.

AJAY RATHORE

Mr. Prakash? Say something.

CBI OFFICER PRAKASH

You'll have to wait a while. I need to discuss this with my superiors.

AJAY RATHORE

Of course.



## 8.4.2 Interview with NDTV

[Contents](#)

*Conducted 11 March, 2013. Courtesy: NDTV News.*

Neha Shastri: Welcome back to the Daily Direct Report, this is Neha Shastri with NDTV news, face-to-face with a man now famous across the globe for his vocal opposition and testimony against the mysterious organization known only as the Ashkhas Yoddha. Welcome to the show, Mr. Rafiq.

Sameer Rafiq: Th—thank you.

NS: Are you feeling all right?

SR: What? Yes, I'm fine. Fine, thank you.

NS: First off, may I just say that I think what you are doing is extremely brave, and I thank you for your courage in being here with us today.

SR: (laughs) Brave? I did what I did because I didn't have a choice.

NS: Because, as you say, the AY was framing you for the Raj Syndicate's money laundering operation.

SR: Yes.

NS: As a former member of the AY, what can you tell us about the organization that you think the public should be aware of?

SR: They're Evil.

NS: Don't you think that's kind of a strong word?

SR: No, I believe it is appropriate.

NS: A lot of people would disagree, even in spite of the fact that the Yoddha have broken several laws, given their participation in the Millennium –

SR: Oh, enough with the Millennium fucking Assassinations, already!

(silence)

SR: I – I apologize. I'm – I'm under a lot of stress.

NS: I see.

SR: But now that you've brought it up, I should point out –

NS: You still maintain that the Millennium Assassinations were a PR move, a false claim by the AY?

SR: I do. It's the truth.

NS: You realize, of course, that this is quite a claim.

SR: It's the truth. Other groups have come forward and taken responsibility for many of the killings in the Millennium Assassinations.

NS: Yes, but that only happened *after* you went public with the claim that the AY's involvement in them was a sham. If what you say is true, then why didn't these people come forward *before* all of this?"

SR: I – I...

NS: There's also the fact that all these incidents targeted well-known terrorists and criminals. What are the odds that they all just started dropping dead in exactly the right time for the AY to take credit for them?

SR: That's – all I know is what happened, and that is that the AY are liars who took credit for other people's work.

NS: So you stand by your statements?

SR: Yes.

NS: In your testimony before the U.S Senate, you also claimed that the AY had members in among Senators and Governors in America.

SR: It's the truth, too.

NS: And what about the news that you claimed some ancient mythical deceiver had faked your voice on the tapes which implicate you in the money laundering scandal? Is that the truth as well?

SR: (shocked) How – how did you know about that? It wasn't in the news.

NS: No, it wasn't, not yet.

SR: You –

NS: Is it true that you made such a claim?

SR: Y-yes.

NS: That some sort of ancient ritualistic spy, still exists? Like the myths about the Visha Kanya?

SR: The Visha Kanya are real. They still exist in the world!

(laughter from the audience.)

NS: I see. And this other mythical people, who can perfectly mimic any voice –

SR: The Shabdakarkas!

NS: And they exist, as well?

SR: What makes you think this is far-fetched? Mimicry artists can imitate many voices, we know this for a fact –

(more audience laughter)

NS: Not well enough to fool modern voice analysts and computers, they can't. And they certainly couldn't do it for hours and hours of conversations.

SR: The Shabdakarkas can! (raises voice) STOP LAUGHING!!

NS: Please be calm, Mr. Rafiq.

SR: Don't tell me to be calm!

NS: You do realize that you are only discrediting yourself? This will be worse than the time you tried to escape from CBI custody, because they were apparently in league with "them".

SR: How did you – how do you know this?

NS: News agencies have sources, Mr. Rafiq.

SR: You – you're – you're one of them.

NS: I'm sorry?

SR: YOU'RE ONE OF THEM! BITCH!!

(Jumps over the table and grabs Ms. Shastri around the throat, attempting to choke her. Security and audience members intervene; Rafiq is dragged off the stage)

SR: Don't you understand? You're all being lied to! They're everywhere! They're everywhere!!!!

*(Video feed is interrupted by commercial, and then ends)*

## 8.5 Inquiry Commission Report

[Contents](#)

TOP SECRET – CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT

### Summary Report

(Unredacted complete version available for Level 8 clearance and above only)

As per the inquiry ordered by [REDACTED], this commission has thoroughly investigated all reports related to the organization calling itself the Ashkhas Yoddha. We have further conducted an inquiry into the claims made by [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. It is our conclusion that while the AY definitely do exist, the specific claims made by these individuals do not have any basis in truth, and can be dismissed as hysterical paranoia and/or deliberate misinformation.

The historical trail of the AY can, of course, be traced through documented accounts, however, whether the modern-day version has anything to do with the original is an unlikely scenario, and we strongly believe that the incidents at [REDACTED] following the [REDACTED] were not sabotage and do not have anything to do with the topic at hand. We also highly recommend that Mr. Rafiq be [REDACTED] as soon as possible so that his claims and proofs of [REDACTED] do not reach the public, since this could result in widespread [REDACTED], which would be a direct threat to national security.

- END REPORT -