

Ashes and Azaan: North East Delhi, 2020

by Farhin Afza

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During the 2020 violence in North East Delhi, I went to the area with a team of volunteers delivering aid and essentials. I visited Masjid-e-Furqania and adjoining Madrasa, located in Brijpuri locality, that was attacked and burnt by a mob.

Shelves full of Qurans and other religious texts were turned to ash. In the first floor, I saw destroyed Madrasa students' books, bags, and belongings. Inside the mosque, I found used tear gas shells.

We reached just before the Asr prayer. Despite the damage, a few men were quietly making wudu (ablution). They had set up a temporary prayer space on the terrace, above the burnt structure. The azaan was called and they climbed up to pray, surrounded by destruction and wreckage.

I walked through a nearby lane, not far from the mosque, and witnessed Muslim homes that were specifically targetted while others left untouched. The air was heavy, but in the middle of the ruins, there was still faith, still prayer.



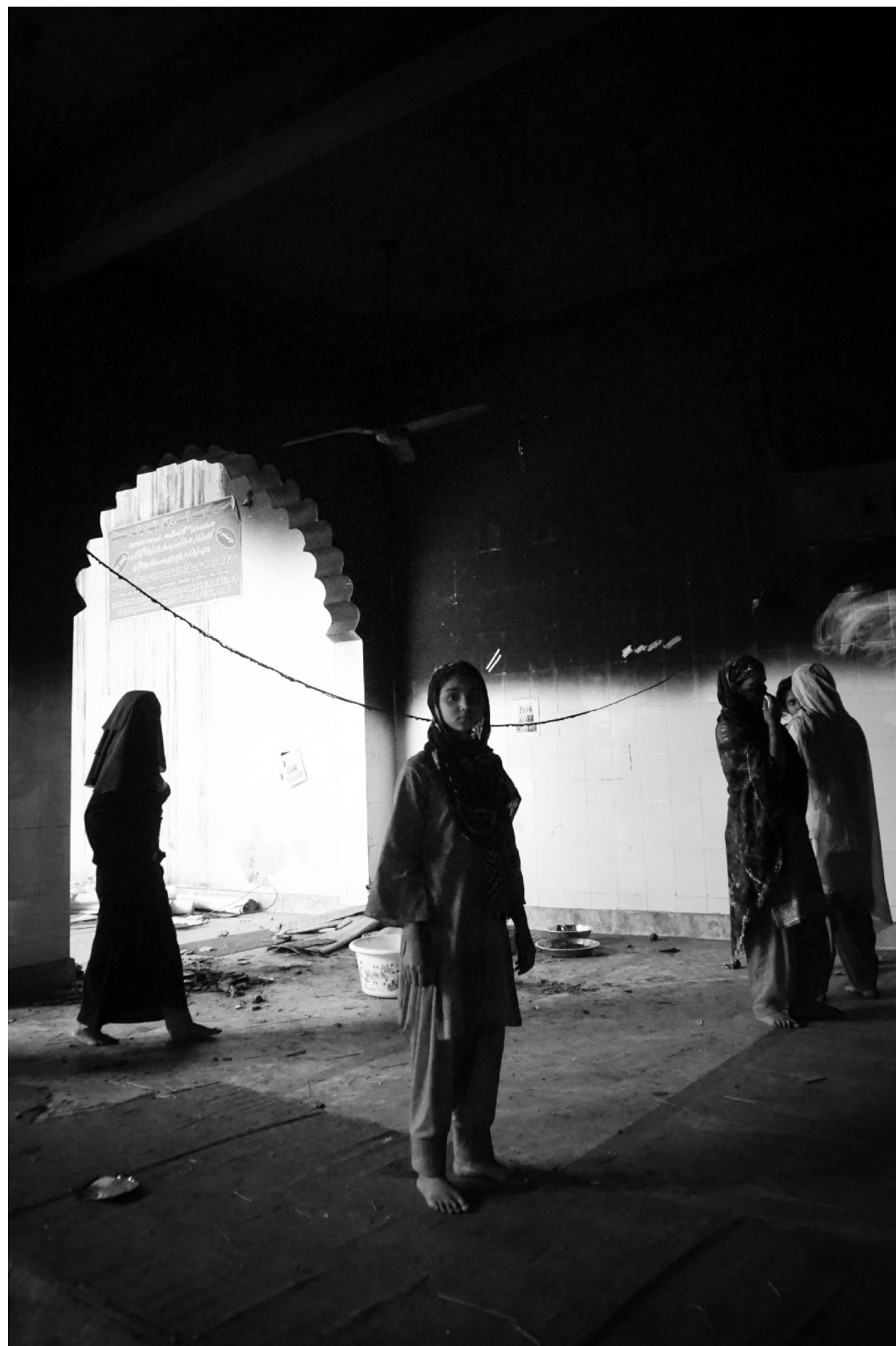
Inside view of Masjid-e-Furqania that was burnt down by a mob.



Two young boys walk in between the rubbles and charred remains.



Two young boys checking out a half-burnt shelf. Torn and dusted prayer rug is also seen on the floor.



A group of people visiting the wreckage and the aftermath of destruction.



The madrasa that functioned on the first floor of Masjid-e-Furqania in the aftermath of destruction and fire.



People passing by Masjid-e-Furqania and looking at the charred remains. The boundary wall in the background has a slogan that reads, 'Save Constitution, Save India'.



Two men leaving the central hall of masjid. Arches covered in soot is seen in the background.



Loud speakers fixed on a pole on the terrace of the masjid. Exterior wall of the masjid covered in soot is also seen.



Paramilitary personnel sitting outside Masjid-e-Furqania.



Muslim houses were targeted while others left untouched.