

Power Line Blog: John Hinderaker, Scott Johnson, Paul Mirengoff

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SOMEBODY GET ME A GUN

November 29, 2008 Posted by John at 8:04 PM

This post should be read in conjunction with the one immediately below. It describes a microcosm of India's failure to defend itself aggressively against Islamic terrorism. The hero of the story is Sebastian D'Souza, a picture editor at the Mumbai Mirror, who took one of the most famous photos of the terrorists in action:



[D'Souza describes](#) his experience at the railway terminal where many innocent Indians were murdered:

"I first saw the gunmen outside the station," Mr D'Souza said. "With their rucksacks and Western clothes they looked like backpackers, not terrorists, but they were very heavily armed and clearly knew how to use their rifles.

"Towards the station entrance, there are a number of bookshops and one of the bookstore owners was trying to close his shop," he recalled. "The gunmen opened fire and the shopkeeper fell down."

But what angered Mr D'Souza almost as much were the masses of armed police hiding in the area who simply refused to shoot back. "There were armed policemen hiding all around the station but none of them did anything," he said. "At one point, I ran up to them and told them to use their weapons. **I said, 'Shoot them, they're sitting ducks! but they just didn't shoot back.'**" ...

As the gunmen fired at policemen taking cover across the street, Mr D'Souza realised a

train was pulling into the station unaware of the horror within. "I couldn't believe it. We rushed to the platform and told everyone to head towards the back of the station. Those who were older and couldn't run, we told them to stay put."

The militants returned inside the station and headed towards a rear exit towards Chowpatty Beach. Mr D'Souza added: "I told some policemen the gunmen had moved towards the rear of the station but they refused to follow them. **What is the point of having policemen with guns if they refuse to use them? I only wish I had a gun rather than a camera.**"

If Mr. D'Souza ever wants to emigrate to the United States, we'll take him.

I wondered [earlier today](#) how a mere ten terrorists could bring a city of 19 million to a standstill. Here in the U.S., I don't think it would happen. I think we have armed security guards who know how to use their weapons, supplemented by an unknown number of private citizens who are armed and capable of returning fire. The Indian experience shows it is vitally important that this continue to be the case. This is a matter of culture as much as, or more than, a matter of laws.

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