

The bravery of ordinary citizens saved many lives.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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among the debris. That was just one among the many most tragic and ludicrous sights during the rescue efforts. There was this rush of oxygen tanks to the sight with no real coordination. Random volunteers took cylinders and started to release where they thought would help. While these efforts were admirable, it may have even have been counterproductive as shown by the fire that erupted later. Others used everything from screwdrivers to random tools to break and remove debris. People crowded the area desperate for news hampering rescue efforts. I know people are emotional no matter where in the world they are, but they also respond to confident leadership. You and your officials were not confident. Thus, I appeal to you and those who working for you, please learn how to be leaders. Attend a few seminars hosted by so many pedagogues and demagogues in this country espousing leadership in various fields. These seminars are usually totally useless but you should get good materials that will allow you to start to learn.

The third petition is one that has roots in every religion and every philosophy except perhaps those which worship evil. Dear beloved leader of the police force and its judicial attachments, please be humble. Please accept your shortcomings and accept help when it's offered. I hope, for the sake of the nation and every sane person in this country, that the story being disseminated in the press of your rejecting foreign help is untrue. If it is true, then there is no petition that will cure you of your hubris. I know that your job is very challenging and sometimes it can make one feel that one is so alone in the world. I have a little proven statement for you – leadership is lonely. It has been and always will be. Leadership also means that you have to be humble. You have to ask about that which you don't know about. Leadership also means that you should not stick to your personal credo even if it means steering the ship straight into the reefs. Is your pride greater than the lives of those who are suffering?

I would thus like to end this petition by simply asking three things from you – allow people who know how to do their jobs, to be humble and to try to understand what you don't know. If you are unwilling, and events like this and the many preventable man-made tragedies keep happening like before, I think the country does not deserve a second more of your excellent service. Go with pride and let others who can, do.

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