

**NIA Press Release**

NIA Chargesheets Another PFI Accused in Kerala Professor's Palm Chopping Case

New Delhi, 17th February 2024

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday chargesheeted the harbourer of the key accused in the Kerala professor palm chopping case.

Shafeer C, a cadre of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), has been chargesheeted under various sections of IPC and UA(P)A.

NIA investigations have revealed that Shafeer had knowingly given shelter to Savad, the prime assailant of Prof. T. J. Joseph, by providing him safe asylum, job under false identity and other facilities. Savad was chargesheeted in the case in 2011.

The 2010 case related to the attempted murder of Professor TJ Joseph, a former head of the Malayalam department of Newman College, Thodupuzha, Idukki District. The professor was attacked by a group of PFI workers at Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district for allegedly ridiculing Prophet Mohammed in a Malayalam question paper prepared for the internal examination of B.Com. The attackers severed Joseph's hand and hurled a bomb to spread terror among the public before fleeing the scene of the crime.

A total of 19 persons, all identified as leaders or activists/ cadres of PFI, have so far been convicted in the case.