



National Investigation Agency

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



NIA Press Release

3 MORE ACCUSED SENTENCED BY NIA SPL COURT IN 2021 AL-QAEDA LUCKNOW TERROR CONSPIRACY CASE.

New Delhi, 14th April 2026

The Lucknow special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sentenced three more accused in a 2021 Al-Qaeda linked radicalisation and recruitment case.

The three men have been identified as Museeruddin @ Raju and Minhaj Ahmad @ Minhaj of Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), and Tawheed Ahmad Shah @ Sobu Shah, hailing from district Budgam of J&K. All three have been convicted and sentenced under various sections of IPC, UA(P) Act, Explosive Substances Act, and Arms Act.

The special court on Monday pronounced varying jail terms, ranging from 5 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) to life imprisonment, against these accused. All the sentences will run concurrently. The men have also been fined a sum of up to Rs. 20,000.

Three other accused, namely Shakeel, Mohd. Mustaqeem and Mohammad Moid (all residents of Lucknow), were convicted earlier in this case (RC-02/2021/NIA/LKW) after they had pleaded guilty under the Arms Act. NIA had filed charges against all the six convicted accused in the case through two chargesheets in 2022.

The case was originally registered by the Uttar Pradesh police following the arrest of Mushirudeen and Minhaj, both members of the banned Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation, by the U.P ATS in July 2021. The duo was found involved in radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable youth for raising Ansaar Gajwatul Hind (AGH) as a module of AQIS (Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent) in Lucknow. The conspiracy was aimed at carrying out terrorist acts in various cities of U.P, including the capital, ahead of the Independence Day celebrations in 2021.

NIA, after taking over the case, found that Minhaj was radicalised by Tawheed and another accused, Adil Nabi Teli @ Musa. Together, these three men had conspired to recruit members for the banned AGH for committing terrorist acts.

Investigations by the anti-terror agency further revealed that Museeruddin was also roped into the conspiracy by Minhaj, and had even taken 'Baiyat' (oath of allegiance) at the latter's behest. Subsequently, Museeruddin and Minhaj had procured arms, ammunition and explosive materials with the help of Shakeel, Mustaqeem and Moid as part of the terror conspiracy intended to wage war against the Government of India.

During the course of the investigation, Musa was found to be a declared terrorist affiliated with TRF, an extended outfit of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror organisation. Investigations revealed that Musa had received funds from Minhaj through Tawheed. Musa was killed in an encounter with security forces in March 2022 and NIA had filed an abated chargesheet against him in August 2022.

