



NIA court convicts another accused in Espionage case

On 30.07.2018, Hon'ble Special Court for NIA cases at Chennai, on the 'plead guilty' petition filed by accused Mohamed Saleem (A-6), aged 43 yrs, S/o Farook Ali, R/o House No.3, Pitchandi Line, Royapuram, Chennai in case RC-02/2014/NIA/HYD [Espionage (Md. Sakir) case] pronounced the accused guilty of charges of criminal conspiracy, possession of high quality counterfeit Indian currency notes and conspiracy besides preparation to commit terrorist acts.

2. The case pertains to the criminal conspiracy hatched by Mohamed Saleem (A-6) and others along with the then officials of the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka during early 2014 with the intention of causing explosion at the US Consulate and other places of public congregation in Chennai besides other installations in South India. The accused had also procured high quality counterfeit Indian currency notes for meeting the expences towards such terrorist activities.

3. On 28.04.2014, Sri Lankan national Mohamed Sakir Hussain (A-1), who had arrived in Chennai to carry out terrorist acts, as per the instructions from his handlers in the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo was arrested by the Tamil Nadu Police. Later, accused Mohamed Saleem (A-6) and Sivabalan (A-5) were arrested on 01.05.2014 when high quality counterfeit Indian currency notes having face value of Rs.2,50,000/- were seized from the possession of A-6. Subsequently, the case was transferred to the NIA in June, 2014. After completing investigation, the NIA had filed charge sheet against 3 accused persons, namely Sakir Hussain (A-1), Sivabalan (A-5) and Mohamed Saleem (A-6) in October, 2014 u/s 120B r/w 489C and 34 r/w 489C of the IPC besides sections 16 and 18 of UA(P) Act. During the framing of charges, Sakir Hussain (A-1) had pleaded guilty of all the charges against him and accordingly A-1 was convicted u/s 120B read with 489C of the IPC besides sections 16 and 18 of the UA (P) Act on 28.11.2014.

4. Now, accused Mohamed Saleem (A-6) has been convicted under sections 489C and 120B of IPC besides sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Mohamed Saleem (A-6) has been awarded punishment of 5 years of Simple Imprisonment with fine of Rs.2,000/-.

5. In this case, NIA has also filed supplementary charge sheet against the then Pakistan High Commission Colombo official Amir Zubair Siddiqui (A-2), Balasubramanian @ Balu @ Balan (A-4), R/o Chennai and Noorudeen @ Rafi @ Ismail (A-7), R/o Chennai u/s 120B, 121A and 489B of IPC besides sections 16 and 18 of UA(P) Act on 22.02.2018. Amir Zubair Siddiqui continues to be an absconder.

