



National Investigation Agency
Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India



PRESS RELEASE

Chargesheet filed in NIA Special Court against senior commanders of Jaish-e-Mohammed for their involvement in the terrorist attack at Pathankot Airbase on 2nd January, 2016. (NIA case no. RC-03/2016/NIA/DLI)

The NIA has today (19/12/2016) filed charge sheet in the Pathankot terror attack case against four accused persons namely **Maulana Masood Azhar (A-1), Chief of the terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM)**, resident of Bahawalpur, Pakistan, **Mufti Abdul Rauf Asghar (A-2), Deputy Chief of Jaish-e-Mohammad** and brother of Maulana Masood Azhar, resident of Bahawalpur, Pakistan, **Shahid Latif (A-3), launching commander**, resident of Mor Aminabad, Gujranwala, Pakistan and **Kashif Jan (A-4), main handler** of Pathankot attackers, resident of Charsada, Pakistan. They have been charged for commission of offences under sections 120B, 121, 121A, 302, 307, 364, 365, 367, 368, 397 of the Indian Penal Code, sections 16, 18, 20, 23, 38 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, section 25, 27 of the Arms Act, 1959, Sections 3(b) of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 and section 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, in the chargesheet.

2. The chargesheet states that the offences as noted above were also established against the attackers of JeM, namely **Nasir Hussain(D-1), resident of Vehari, Pakistan, Hafiz Abu Bakar (D-2), resident of Gujranwala, Pakistan, Umar Farooq(D-3), resident of Sanghar, Pakistan and Abdul Qayum(D-4), resident of Sukkur, Pakistan**, who executed the terror attack at Pathankot Airbase on the 2nd January, 2016. Prosecution against these attackers was recommended to be abated since they are dead. A Red Corner Notice (RCN) has been issued by the Interpol for the arrest of the three accused A-1, A-2 and A-3, whereas the issue of RCN against A-4 is in process.

3. It was established during investigation that the terrorists (all Pakistani nationals, belonging to the proscribed terrorist organization, Jaish-e-Mohammad) entered into a criminal conspiracy to infiltrate into the territory of India and to commit terrorist attack and wage war against the Government of India. In pursuance of the said criminal conspiracy, the accused persons, their leaders / handlers and co-conspirators including but not limited to Maulana Masood Azhar, Mufti Abdul Rauf Asghar, Kashif Jan and Shahid Latif, set up training camps in Pakistan and the PoK area, for recruitment and training of terrorists, in order to carry out terror attacks on the Indian soil. During the training, these terrorists were made to undergo extensive motivational, physical, military and tactical training regimen, to radicalize them and to prepare them for Jihad.

4. In the instant case, it was revealed that the leaders / handlers and co-conspirators of the JeM as mentioned above, sent four terrorists, namely Nasir Hussain (D-1), Hafiz Abu Bakar(D-2), Umar Farooq (D-3), and Abdul Qayum(D-4), all residents of Pakistan, trained in terrorist tradecraft and

belonging to JeM, with sophisticated arms, ammunition and other logistical items from across Pakistan on 30.12.2015. They illegally crossed the Indo-Pak international border through the forest area near the Simbal Border Outpost. Empty food packets manufactured in Pakistan and other food articles from Pakistan were recovered from the forest area near the Simbal Border Outpost, during investigation.

5. After infiltrating into the Indian side, these terrorists reached the road from Bhagwal village to Janial. On 31.12.2015, at around 2130 hrs, they hijacked an Innova taxi bearing registration number PB06-G-0061, along with the driver, Ikagar Singh, who was going from village Bhagwal to Janial. The terrorists snatched the mobile phone of Ikagar Singh and used the same to communicate with their handler, Kashif Jan (A-4), and senior leaders / operatives of the Jaish-e-Mohammad in Pakistan, on three Pakistan mobile numbers 923453030479, 923213132786 and 923017775253. Their vehicle met with an accident at the Dhusi turn near the Ravi River Bridge. The terrorists brutally killed Ikagar Singh and dumped his dead body in the nearby bushes. Thereafter, the terrorists drove the damaged Innova vehicle and abandoned it at a service station at Kolian Morh, district Pathankot. During investigation, the DNA profiles recovered from the dagger, seized from the possession of one of the dead terrorists, matched with that of Ikagar Singh, thereby conclusively establishing that he had killed Ikagar Singh. Similarly, DNA profile of two terrorists was found on the Red Bull (energy drink) can, recovered from the vehicle of Ikagar Singh.

6. After abandoning the damaged Innova vehicle of Ikagar Singh at Kolian Morh, the terrorists hid in the nearby sugarcane fields and waited for a vehicle to come. They then hijacked a Mahindra XUV vehicle bearing regn No. PB02-BW-0313 of Salvinder Singh, Supdt. of Police, Punjab Police, and moved towards the Air Force Station, Pathankot. The terrorists pushed the three occupants inside the vehicle and took control of the vehicle. They snatched the mobile phones of the victims, and used them to communicate with their handler, Kashif Jan (A-4), and senior leaders / operatives of the JeM in Pakistan on the four Pakistan numbers, i.e., 923453030479, 923466746667, 923000957212 and 923024880619. After some time, the terrorists tied, blindfolded and dumped Salvinder Singh and his cook Madan Gopal, at an abandoned place in a forest area near village, Gulpur Simli, district Pathankot, on way to the Air Force Station, Pathankot. However, they took the third occupant, i.e. Rajesh Verma, along with them. The dumped victims managed to untie themselves and rushed to the nearby village, Gulpur Simli, on foot for help. The terrorists, on learning later from Rajesh Verma that Salvinder Singh was a police officer, informed their handler who directed them to go back and look for him. Since Salvinder Singh and Madan Gopal had already left the spot, the terrorists resumed their journey to the Air Force Station.

7. At around 0400 hrs on 01.01.2016, the terrorists reached the village Akalgarh near the Air Force Station, Pathankot. They tied Rajesh Verma and brutally slit his throat with an intention to kill him and abandoned him and the vehicle in the fields at around 0400 hrs. Thereafter, they moved towards the Air Force Station, Pathankot, on foot. Meanwhile, Rajesh Verma managed to untie himself and rushed to the nearby village, Akalgarh, for help.

8. As per the forensic report collected during investigation, the DNA profile of the genetic material lifted from the Red Bull energy drink can, recovered from the Mahindra XUV vehicle, matched with that of one of the deceased terrorists. The DNA profile of the genetic material lifted from the dagger recovered from the possession of another terrorist matched with that of the victims Rajesh Verma and Ikagar Singh. Similarly, the profile of the trace DNA lifted from the handle of the dagger, matched

with that of another terrorist. The seat belt of the Mahindra XUV was cut and used to tie one of the victims. As per the forensic report, the seat belt pieces recovered from the forest area, where the terrorists had dumped Salvinder Singh and his cook, Madan Gopal, matched with the remaining seat belt pieces of the Mahindra XUV vehicle. One walkie-talkie set belonging to the terrorists and one slip written in English were recovered from the Mahindra XUV vehicle. The terrorists had left that slip in which it was written, **“Jaish E Muhamad Zindabad Tanghdar se le kar Samba Kathua Rajbagh Aur delhi tak Afzal Guru Shadeed Kay Jan nisar Tum ko meltay rahege. Insha Allah. A.G.S. 25-12-15”**.

9. Two 500 Rs. Indian currency notes taken by the terrorists from the wallet of Rajesh Verma, were also recovered from the body of the terrorists. The iPhone of Rajesh Verma, which was snatched by the terrorists was recovered from the ‘nallah’ near the perimeter wall inside the Air Force Station where the terrorists had hidden before carrying out the terrorist attack.

10. Investigation revealed that after abandoning the Mahindra XUV vehicle, the terrorists moved to the western side of the Air Force Station on foot. The terrorists forced their entry into the Air Force Station, Pathankot, after cutting the wire fencing over the western side of the perimeter wall and then crossed it and entered the airbase on 01.01.2016, early in the morning. As per the forensic analysis report, the marks of the cutting tool recovered from the terrorists, matched with the marks on the cut portion of the fencing wire. Also the climbing rope used by them and recovered from the perimeter wall, matched with the rope recovered from the Mahindra XUV vehicle. A glove and a woollen cap, similar to those recovered from the terrorists, were recovered entangled with the wire fencing over the perimeter wall. Further there were marks of climbing over the eucalyptus tree, just outside the perimeter wall panel and also on the other side of the perimeter wall.

11. After getting inside the Air Force Station, the terrorists hid themselves inside the ‘nallah’ and the dilapidated MES Store sheds till the time they launched the assault. As per the forensic report, the shoe prints lifted from the ‘nallah’ matched with the shoes of a terrorist.

12. While the terrorists were hiding inside the Air Force station, at about 0840 hrs on 01.01.2016, one of the terrorists, identified by the name “Nasir”, tried calling the Pakistan telephone number 923466746667 in Pakistan using the snatched Indian mobile number but could not converse. The name of the user of the Pakistan phone number 923466746667 is Khayam Bhatti @ Khayam Rasool @ Babar Bhatti. He runs a local merchandise shop (kirana) shop in Rum, Sialkot, Pakistan. At about 09.20 AM on 01.01.2016, the terrorist, Nasir, called the Pakistan telephone number 923000957212. In this conversation, the terrorist, Nasir, disclosed the names of his other three associates as Major, Abu Bakar and Umar. In another conversation same day, he expressed his desire to the person on the other side to talk to a lady whom he addressed as his mother. The person took the phone to her and Nasir talked to her in detail for around 18 minutes. Nasir told the lady that they had infiltrated into the Indian territory at ‘do baje’ on Wednesday (which was 30.12.2015). He further told her that he had killed two persons referring to the deceased Ikagar Singh and the injured victim (Rajesh Verma), whose throat was slit by the terrorist but happened to survive. He also spoke to his brother/cousin who is referred to by the name Babar, and to another person who is referred to by the name Munna. While speaking to the lady addressed as his mother, Nasir asked her to record his conversation on the mobile set. During his conversation with her, Nasir mentioned about one “Ustad” who was supposed to come to her with his “Wasihah” after his death. Nasir also asked her to host a “dawat” (feast) for his “derawala friends” after

his death. The terrorist, Nasir also took the names of some of the members in his family / relatives, viz, Mudassir, Mariyam and Altamash, in the conversation. Nasir also disclosed that they were hiding inside the Air Force Station (referred to as Camp in conversation) and waiting to carry out the terror attack.

13. The terrorists launched the attack early in the morning on 02.01.2016. After noticing suspicious movement at about 0235 hrs on 02.01.2016, the Garud Commandos of the Indian Air Force followed the terrorists from the MES Stores towards the MES Motor Transport (MT) Section. The gunfight between the Garud commandos and the terrorists started in the MES MT yard at about 0320 hrs. The terrorists fired and lobbed grenades indiscriminately towards the Garud Commandos, while moving out of the MES MT yard. During the gunfight, one Garud Commando, Cpl Gursevak Singh, was martyred and two others were injured. The terrorists also specifically targeted fuel tanks of the vehicles parked in the MT Section setting them on fire, causing severe damage to the vehicles and the buildings, so as to cause panic.

14. The four terrorists then moved out of the MES MT yard and started moving southwards. They crossed T99 billet where they set the motorcycles parked in the billet shed on fire. Thereafter the terrorists moved further southwards firing indiscriminately and lobbing grenades. As a result, one Air Force personnel lost his life, while another personnel got injured. Thereafter they crossed the billets near the Peer Baba Mazar. They kept on firing indiscriminately injuring one personnel, on the first floor verandah of the billet. They then entered the DSC Mess area. They kept on firing, due to which, one Air Force personnel, Hon Capt Fateh Singh, got martyred and four others got injured.

15. While moving ahead, the terrorists kept firing indiscriminately, as a result of which two more Air Force personnel, got martyred at the cook house, while one personnel, got martyred on the DSC lawns stage, after neutralizing one terrorist on the stage. The terrorists hid themselves in the thick dry vegetation near the DSC lawns. The NSG and Army units then cordoned off this area and, subsequently, neutralized these three terrorists on 02.01.2016.

16. During the operation, 7 persons were martyred and 37 persons were injured inside the Air Force Station, Pathankot.

17. During investigation, NIA investigators collected sufficient evidence in terms of statements of the witnesses to establish that the terrorists had been trained, motivated and radicalised by Maulana Masood Azhar and Mufti Abdul Rauf. It has also been established through legal intercepts and statements of witnesses, that Kashif Jan and Shahid Latif had guided, equipped and launched the four terrorists, who carried out the terrorist attack at the Air Force Station, Pathankot, killing and injuring innocent persons and destroying public property. The recoveries from the scene of crime, material and documentary evidence, forensic reports and extensive call data analysis, conclusively establish the complicity of the terrorists of JeM, in the attack at the Pathankot Airbase.

18. Sanction for prosecution has been obtained from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under the Section 45(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, as amended. Sanction of the District Magistrate, Pathankot as required under section 39 of the Arms Act, 1959, and under section 7 of the Explosives Substances Act, 1908, has also been obtained and has been submitted along with the chargesheet.
