



NIA COURT SENTENCES JET AIRWAYS HIJACKING CASE ACCUSED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

On 11/06/2019 NIA Special Court, Ahmedabad pronounced the judgment in NIA RC-16/2017/NIA/DLI (Jet Hijacking Case) and sentenced accused Birju Kishor Salla to life imprisonment alongwith fine of Rupees 5 Crore for violation of different provisions of the Anti-Hijacking Act 2016. Out of the fine amount, each pilot will get compensation of Rs. one lakh, each airhostess will get Rs. 50,000 and each passenger will be paid Rs. 25,000 for misery undergone by them.

1. Background of the case is that on 30/10/2017, Jet Airways Flight No. 9W-339 was headed towards Delhi from Mumbai. During the flight, an airhosts found a threat note in the washroom of the business class of the plane which stated that "There are hijackers on board and explosives on the plane". This threat was brought to the notice of the Captain of the flight who sought permission of Air Traffic Controller in Ahmedabad for an emergency landing.

2. Initially, the case was registered and investigated by Crime Branch, Ahmedabad and one passenger namely Birju Kishor Salla was arrested on suspicion. NIA re-registered the case vide RC-16/2017/NIA-DLI under sections 3(1), 3(2)(a) and 4(b) of Anti Hijacking Act 2016 on 07/11/2017 and took over investigation. During the investigation, clinching evidence regarding preparation of the threat note and its placement on the plane was collected. It was further established that accused Birju Kishor Salla intentionally committed the act to disrupt the operation of aircraft (9W339 of Jet Airways) while on board. He also jeopardized the safety of the passengers and crew members on board by an intentional act of putting printed threat letter inside the toilet of said aircraft. On 23/01/2018, the chargesheet was filed in the NIA Special Court at Ahmedabad against accused Birju Kishor Salla under sections 3(1), 3(2)(a) and 4(b) of Anti Hijacking Act 2016.

3. This was the first case registered under Anti Hijacking Act 2016 by NIA and has resulted in sentencing of the accused to life imprisonment and an exemplary fine of Rs. 5 Crore.
