



**NIA Spl Court Convicts Accused Arun Selvarajan in “Thameem Ansari Espionage Case”**

On 13th March, 2020, NIA Special Court, Chennai pronounced judgement in RC-02/2014/NIA/HYD (Thameem Ansari Espionage Case) convicting Sri Lankan national Arun Selvarajan (A-5) for all the charges. The accused has been sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment with fine of Rs. 20,000/-.

2. Case was originally registered as FIR No. 01/2012 dated 17th September, 2012 of Q Branch Police Station, Trichy, Tamil Nadu u/s 3, 4 and 9 of Official Secrets Act read with section 120B of IPC after the arrest of Thameem Ansari (A-1) native of Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu on 16th September, 2012 for conducting espionage at the behest of Pakistan Intelligence officers led by accused Amir Zubair Siddique (A-3) posted at the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo, as part of the conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts in India. NIA had re-registered the case as RC-03/2013/NIA/HYD on 1st May, 2013 and taken over the investigation.

3. ★ Later, accused Arun Selvarajan (A-5) was arrested in this case on 10th September, 2014 for engaging in similar espionage activities, at the behest of Pakistan Intelligence officers. Ensuing investigation had established that the accused persons Thameem Ansari (A-1) and Arun Selvarajan (A-5), pursuant to the conspiracy hatched with Pakistan intelligence officers had conducted espionage at various defence establishments and sensitive locations in Tamil Nadu besides transmitted such classified information to Amir Zubair Siddique (A-3), thereby threatening the sovereignty and security of India.

4. On 6th March, 2015, charge-sheet was filed against Thameem Ansari (A-1) u/s 120B and 121A of IPC, sections 17 and 18 of UA (P) Act and section 3 of Official Secrets Act, 1923 besides against Arun Selvarajan (A-5) u/s 120B, 121A, 419, 465, 468 and 471 of IPC, sections 17 and 18 of UA (P) Act, section 3 of Official Secrets Act and section 20 of NDPS Act, 1985. Later, supplementary charge-sheet was filed against Arun Selvarajan (A-5) on 30th March, 2016 u/s 14(a), 14(b) and 14(c) of Foreigners Act, 1946 besides sections 12(1)(b) and 12(1A) of Passport Act, 1967.

5. Charges were framed against Thameem Ansari (A-1) and Arun Selvarajan (A-5) on 8th January,

2018 and trial had commenced on 29th January, 2018. Accused Arun Selvaraj (A-5) has now been convicted for all the charges against him. However, trial against Thameem Ansari (A-1) continues.

6. Investigation is continuing against the absconding accused Mohammed Anver Mohammed Siraj Ali (A-2), native of Sri Lanka besides the Pakistan intelligence officer Amir Zubair Siddique (A-3) and others.

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