



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



NIA sets standards of investigation and prosecution yet again

NIA Spl Court, Lucknow awarded pronounces death sentence against 7 accused and life imprisonment for 1 in ISIS Kanpur case

NIA Spl Court, Ahmedabad sentences 2 to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in ISIS Rajkot case

Continuing the tradition of evidence-based investigations, which rely on scientifically collected hard evidence, the National Investigation Agency has achieved yet another milestone. In two separate judgements, NIA Spl Court at Lucknow and at Ahmedabad have pronounced sentences for a total of 10 accused. Both cases relate to the online radicalization of the accused in the name of ISIS, their motivation to commit violent Jihad and cause terror attacks in the country.

The 8 accused from UP, Atif Muzaffar, Mohammad Danish, Asif Iqbal @ Rocky, Mohammad Atif @ Atif Iraqi, Mohammad Faisal, Mohammad Azhar and Gauss Mohammad Khan all hailing from Kanpur Nagar, Sayed Meer Hussain of Kannauj, UP along with deceased Md. Saifullah had set up a hideout in Haji Colony (Lucknow). They had prepared and tested some IEDs and had unsuccessfully tried to plant them at various locations in UP. Investigations have led to discovery of several photographs of the accused making IEDs and even with weapons, ammunition and ISIS flag. The group had reportedly collected illegal weapons, and explosives from various places. Atif and three others, identified as Md Danish, Sayed Meer Hussain and Md Saifulla, had been responsible for fabricating the IED that was planted in the Bhopal-Ujjain passenger train. The train explosion on March 7, 2017, had left 10 injured.

All eight had come together to propagate ISIS ideology and promote its activities in India. In pursuit of this objective, Mohammad Faisal, Gauss Mohammad Khan, Atif Muzaffar, Md Danish, Md Saifulla had explored land routes. They had visited several key cities across the country, including Kolkata, Sundarbans, Srinagar, Amritsar, Wagha Border, Badmer, Jaisalmer, Mumbai, and Kozhikode, for undertaking 'hijrah' (migration). Gauss Mohammad Khan and Atif Muzaffar had, in fact, explored a route to cross over to Bangladesh via Sundarbans, as per investigations. Faisal, Atif and Saifulla had also travelled to Kashmir in March 2016 in a bid to contact some terrorist groups that could help them to cross over to Pakistan, from where they could migrate to ISIS controlled territories in Syria. Another accused, Saifulla, was killed during exchange of fire with ATS UP on March 7, 2017, in Haji Colony.

The case was initially registered as FIR no. 03/2017 dated 08.03.2017 at PS ATS, Lucknow and re-registered by the NIA on 14.03.2017. After investigations, a Charge-sheet was filed against the 8 on 31.08.2017. Post the trial, the 8 accused persons were convicted on 24.02.2023. Yesterday (28.2.2023), NIA Special Judge, Lucknow Court, UP, pronounced sentence convicting accused under various offences of IPC, UA(P) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act.

Seven of the accused namely Mohammad Faisal s/o Naseem Ahmed r/o 223, Ashiyana Colony Road, Taad Baghiya, Jajmau, PS-Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, Gauss Mohammad Khan, s/o Sher Mohammad Khan r/o H. No-314/341, B-48, Manohar Nagar, PS-Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, Mohammad Azhar s/o Mohammad Asgar, r/o 105/656, Shisamau, Acharyanagar, Kanpur Nagar, UP, Atif Muzaffar s/o late Muzaffar Haq Nadvi, r/o H.N. 231 LIG, KDA Colony, Village- Jajmau, PS- Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, Mohammad Danish s/o Naseem Ahmad, r/o H.N. 223, Ashiyana Colony Road, Taad Bagiya, Village- Jajmau, , PS- Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, Sayed Meer Hussain, s/o Sayed Ahsen Hasan, r/o 6- Indira Nagar, Gursahaiganj, District- Kannauj, UP, Asif Iqbal @ Rocky s/o Shahid Iqbal r/o Manohar Nagar, Uncha Teela, Jajmau, PS- Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, have been awarded death penalty.

Mohammad Atif @ Atif Iraqi S/o Parvez Akhtar r/o 344-B, Bangali Ghat, Jajmau, PS- Chakeri, Kanpur Nagar, UP, has been sentenced with Life Imprisonment.

On the other hand, in yet another ISIS related case, Gujarat NIA Special Court have sentenced 02 terrorists to ten years rigorous imprisonment in RC-09/2017/NIA/DLI (ISIS Rajkot Case), which investigated the use of social media platforms, such as Skype and Telegram, to radicalise and recruit cadres to carry out terror acts in India in the name of ISIS.

Both accused Vaseem Arif Ramodia @ Ninja Fox and Naeem Arif Ramodia @ ND are brothers and residents of 'Firdosh', 2-Nehru Nagar, Raiya Road, Rajkot, Gujarat. Investigations have revealed that they used online chats and messages to advocate and spread the ideology of ISIS. They arranged, participated and assisted in organising online discussions & meetings among active ISIS operatives to plan & execute acts of violence & terrorism. They had tried to commit arson by burning vehicles and shops belonging to non-Muslims. They has unsuccessfully tried to fabricate an IED as well. On the directions of their online ISIS handlers, both the accused were preparing to carry out lone-wolf attack at Chotila Temple. They had already recee'd the area but they were apprehended before they could carry out the attack.

The case was initially registered as FIR no 01/2017 in PS ATS Ahmedabad, Gujarat and re-registered by NIA on 25.05.2017. Chargesheet was filed against them on 22.08.2017 and after the trial was completed, judgment convicting the accused was pronounced on 28.02.2023.

With the pronouncing of these two sentences, the conviction rate of NIA cases stands at 93.69%.

