



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



Life imprisonment awarded by the NIA Special Court to all 5 accused in Bodhgaya blast case

The NIA had registered three cases on 10/07/2013 at PS NIA, New Delhi as Case RC-07/2013/NIA/DLI, RC-08/2013/NIA/DLI and RC-09/2013/NIA/DLI to investigate the bomb blast at Maha Bodhi Temple, Gaya Bihar.

2. Serial Bomb Blasts were caused by unknown terrorists at the Maha Bodhi Temple Complex in which 04 Bombs exploded at (a) Tara Ghar/Mandir, (b) in an enclosure near the main temple, (c) In front of the Mahabodhi Tree and (d) near the fuel tank of the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee Ambulance stationed near Deep Ghar, (all inside the Temple complex) in which two persons including a Myanmar national got injured on 07.07.13 in between 0520 hrs. and 0600 hrs.

3. Apart from this, one bomb blast took place at Tearger Monastery, where Buddhist children used to study, another Bomb blast occurred under the fuel tank of a tourist bus near Muhaan and one Bomb Blast at 80 ft. Buddha statue. Three Live bombs were found at a nearby placed Transformer, play ground near Tearger Monastery and 80 ft. Buddha Monastery. Thus, altogether 13 IED bombs were planted, out of which 10 nos. of Bombs exploded and remaining 03 nos. of live bombs were recovered by the BDDS team. At the outset, it appeared that these Bombs may be planted at Bodh Gaya by a group of SIMI activists, a banned terrorist organisation.

4. After investigation, combined charge sheet was filed in above three cases (RC-07, 08 & 09/2013/NIA-DLI) against 03 accused persons namely i) Umer Siddiqui, ii) Azharuddin Qureshi and iii) Imtiyaz Ansari was filed by NIA on 29/05/2014 and a Supplementary charge sheet was filed against 03 accused persons namely i) Haidar Ali, ii) Muzibullah Ansari and iii) Taufique Ansari on 11/09/2014 before the Hon'ble NIA Special court Patna, Bihar.

5. Investigation revealed that Umair Siddiqui, an old SIMI cadre, was the master mind of the terrorist act. He alongwith Azharuddin Qureshi arranged the logistics, did planning, organized hideouts, raised funds and procured explosives and chemicals used in the preparation of IEDs. Haider Ali also known as 'Black beauty' was a trained bomb maker. Haider had close links with proscribed organisation SIMI and Indian Mujahideen. His entity "Black beauty" surfaced in the chats between the non-terrorists Bhatkal brothers and

members of the Indian Mujahideen. During planting of IEDs Haider Ali dressed himself like a Buddhist monk and left the dress which was later seized by NIA. Haider Ali's DNA was forensically matched with his Buddhist Monk attire. Mujibullah Ansari was Haider's roommate in Ranchi, from whose room a map of Bodhgaya blast site and explosive materials were recovered. Majibullah alongwith Haider Ali and Imtiyaz Ansari planted the bombs at Bodh Gaya.

6. After a trial spanning more than 3 years, Special NIA Court, Patna, Bihar held all the prosecuted accused namely Umer Siddiqui, Azharuddin Qureshi, Imtiyaz Ansari, Haidar Ali and Muzibullah Ansari guilty on 25.05.2018.

7. The Special NIA Court took a very strong view of the terror act committed by the accused persons and awarded punishment of life imprisonment for all the 5 accused persons namely i) Umer Siddiqui, ii) Azharuddin Qureshi, iii) Imtiyaz Ansari, iv) Haidar Ali and v) Muzibullah Ansari on 01.06.2018 with fine ranging from Rs. 40,000/- to 60,000/-. All the accused were convicted under sections 120B, 153A, 307 of the IPC, sections 3 & 4 of the Explosive Substance Act and sections 16, 18, 20, & 23 of the UA (P) Act, (for criminal conspiracy for a terrorist act, being a member of terrorist organization and for effecting disaffection among communities and attempt to murder). Further, 03 accused namely Haidar Ali, Umair Siddiqui and Azharuddin Qureshi were held guilty for raising funds for terrorist act u/s 17 of the UA (P) Act. Earlier on 11th Oct, 2017, the Juvenile Justice Board had held juvenile Taufique Ansari in conflict with law guilty under sections 120B/153A/324/307/436/458/34 of the IPC, Sections 3 & 4 of the Explosive Substances Act and sections 16, 18, 20 & 23 of the UA (P) Act.

8. The Special NIA Court also pronounced in the order that in case of non-payment of fine, the sentence will increase by 6 months in each case.
