



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



## **NIA IDENTIFIES SUSPECT** IN BENGALURU BLAST CASE

*TADA Court Acquits Key Accused in 1993 Blast Case*

## **ABSCONDING PFI KILLER OF RSS MEMBER NABBED**

*Former ISIS Bride Loses Plea to Regain UK Citizenship*

## **UNITED JIHAD COUNCIL HEAD KILLED MYSTERIOUSLY**

*New York Times Stans by its Hamas Sexual Abuse Story*

**+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES**

# NIA IDENTIFIES SUSPECT IN BEGALURU BLAST CASE

10 HURT IN MARCH 1, LOW-INTENSITY BLAST AT RAMESHWARAM CAFE



Bengaluru's Rameshwaram Cafe blast suspect seen getting off bus near cafe, CCTV shows. — India Today

On 1 March 2024, a low-intensity IED blast occurred at the renowned Rameshwaram Café in Bengaluru. The device was placed inside the restaurant and hidden inside a small bag left behind by the perpetrator after he ordered his breakfast.

At least 10 people have been wounded in this attack and around four terrorist suspects are being investigated in connection with this blast. Two of them reside abroad and one of the suspects is an individual who is only known by his codename – Colonel.

The main suspect, suspected of being anywhere between 28 and 30-years-old, covered his face with a white handkerchief, glasses, and a cap to hide his identity. The bus taken by him to reach the café has been identified by the authorities.

The Bengaluru Police filed an FIR under sections 471 and 307 of the Indian Penal Code. Furthermore, sections 16, 18, and 38 of the Unlawful Prevention (Activities) and sections 4 and 3 of the Explosive Substance Act were also added.

The Police had recovered nuts, bolts, a timer, and a 9v battery from the blast site. The National Investigation Agency has now been assigned the responsibility of investigating this case after taking over the matter from the Bengaluru Police. Raghavendra Rao, co-founder and CEO of the Rameshwaram café called for more stringent security measures to be implemented to prevent a recurrence of such events. – [Hindustan Times](#), [Live Mint](#), [Deccan Herald](#)

## TADA COURT ACQUITS ABDUL KARIM TUNDA IN 1993 SERIAL BLAST CASE



On 29 February 2024, a Terrorist and Anti-Disruptive Activities Act court based in Ajmer acquitted Syed Abdul Karim Tunda, the primary accused in the 1993 serial blasts case.

Tunda was declared not guilty by the court due to lack of evidence.

It was revealed during earlier interrogations that he was a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba and was closely associated with Dawood Ibrahim and Pakistan's ISI. The Central Bureau of Investigations is set to appeal his acquittal.

An official familiar with Tunda's case has revealed that the accused had been a 'bigger catch' than Abu Jundal. Jundal, a member of Lashkar-e-Taiba, had coordinated the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai in 2008. – [Hindustan Times](#), [Live Mint](#)

## FORMER ISIS 'BRIDE' LOSES PLEA TO REGAIN UK CITIZENSHIP



SHAMIMA BEGUM

Shamima Begum, the British national who travelled to Syria as a schoolgirl to join ISIS, has lost her appeal against the decision to revoke her British citizenship.

The government's decision to revoke her citizenship was upheld by all three judges who reviewed this matter.

Lady Chief Justice Baroness Carr remarked on the ruling – 'It could be argued the decision in Ms. Begum's case was harsh. It could also be argued that Ms. Begum is the author of her own misfortune. ... Our only task is to assess whether the deprivation decision was unlawful. We have concluded it was not, and the appeal is dismissed.'

Begum's lawyers have argued that it is necessary to bring her back to the UK and they will file an appeal with the Supreme Court. – [BBC News](#)

## ABSCONDING PFI KILLER OF RSS MEMBER NABBED

GHOUSE NIYAZI HELD AT MUMBAI AIRPORT FOR MURDERING R RUDRESH



Mohammed Ghouse Nayazi, a member of the proscribed Popular Front of India, has been arrested by a National Investigation Agency team at the Mumbai International Airport after he had been absconding for several years in a case related to the murder of RSS leader R Rudresh.

Ghouse was the President of the banned organisation in South India and was also involved in the 2014 Mumbai riots. He and three other members of the Popular Front of India - Irfan Pasha, Waseem Ahmed, Mohammed Sadiq and Mohammed Mujeeb Ulla- were involved in hacking to death R Rudresh, a prominent RSS leader from Shivajinagar, Bengaluru on 16 October 2016.

In their defence, the perpetrators believed that they were fighting a 'holy war' against the RSS. As per the agency, the murder was part of a larger conspiracy and Nayazi was its mastermind. Pasha, Waseem Ahmed, Sadiq, and Mujeeb Ulla's bail applications have been rejected and the trial against them is ongoing. A police officer involved in investigating this case has said:

"We also want to look into the cases reported in the past to see if Ghouse had a role in them. These will include a case where Bengaluru city police had foiled a terror plot and recovered grenades from terror suspects in Bengaluru in July 2023. The probe also had revealed that the grenades were not manufactured in India." – [Hindustan Times](#), [The Indian Express](#)

# UNITED JIHAD COUNCIL LEADER JAMEELUR RAHMAN KILLED

MYSTERIOUS END OF THE SHADOWY HEAD OF TAHREEK-UL-MUJAHIDEEN



Sheikh Jameel-ur-Rahman, considered one of the most-wanted terrorists by India and the Secretary General of the United Jihad Council, has died under mysterious circumstances in Abbottabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He was a resident of Pulwama and had been designated as a terrorist by the central government in October 2022 due to his involvement in terrorist activities. He had relocated to Pakistan after carrying out acts of terror and was found dead on 2 March 2024. He was reportedly in cahoots with Pakistan's ISI and was culpable for numerous terrorist attacks in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir. Additionally, he was responsible for coordinating various terrorist groups' activities, infiltration, and training.

Jameel-ur-Rahman was also a self-styled commander of Tahreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM). TuM was formed in 1990 and it was proscribed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in February 2019 due to its involvement in terrorist activities. It has also been accused of backing other banned groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.

Furthermore, TuM's pan-Islamist agenda involved merging the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan. It also wanted to merge several terrorist organisations operating in Jammu and Kashmir - Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Al Badr, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen- and unite them under a common umbrella. – [The Week](#), [India TV News](#)

MUSK ACCUSED  
OF SELLING 'X'  
SERVICES TO  
HEZBOLLAH  
AND HOUTHIS



The Tech Transparency Project, self-described as a research initiative of Campaign for Accountability that seeks to hold large technology companies accountable – has accused Elon Musk's X of issuing blue check marks to some organisations – Houthis and Hezbollah - that have been proscribed by many Western countries.

As per its report, 'The U.S. imposes sanctions on individuals, groups, and countries deemed to be a threat to national security...X appears to be selling premium service to some of them... A blue checkmark account that bears the name and profile image of Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Hezbollah, also indicates it is 'ID verified', a service that X offers to premium subscribers as a way to prevent impersonation...' – [BBC News](#)

## **NEW YORK TIMES STANDS BY HAMAS SEXUAL ABUSE STORY**

The *New York Times* (NYT) has decided to stand by its reporting about a high-profile investigative article titled ‘Screams Without Words’: How Hamas Weaponized Sexual Violence on Oct. 7,’ detailing the sexual abuse carried out against Israeli women and girls by members of Hamas. Its statement comes in response to a detailed piece published by another news organisation, *The Intercept*, refuting the credibility of claims published in the NYT piece.

The NYT argued that ‘We remain confident in the accuracy of our reporting and stand by the team’s investigation which was rigorously reported, sourced and edited.’ Furthermore, in an email to *The Intercept*, NYT criticised a number of its assertions, including how NYT’s reporting was conducted and the claim that “forensic evidence of sexual violence was non-existent,” – [CNN News](#)

### **5 Life Sentences for Killing Muslims**

Nathaniel Veltman, a Canadian citizen who killed four members of a Muslim family in 2021 after running them down using his truck, has been awarded five life sentences by the court.

A now-orphaned boy was seriously wounded in the attack.

In an ‘unprecedented move,’ almost 70 victim impact statements were heard by the court in January.

Veltman will not be eligible for parole for the next 25 years. The judge reviewing this case compared Veltman’s actions to ‘white nationalist terrorism.’ –

– [BBC News](#)

### **Fugitive SIMI Activist Arrested after 22 Years**

The Delhi Police has arrested Hanif Shaikh, a member of the banned Students Islamic Movement (SIMI) of India. He had been on the run for at least 22 years.

He edited the Urdu version of the proscribed group’s Islamic Movement magazine and radicalised numerous individuals through his teachings.

He was responsible for organising several SIMI meetings across India and was declared as a fugitive by a Delhi court in 2022. – [NDTV](#)

### **Jihadis kill 15 Catholic Churchgoers in Africa**

On 25 February 2024, approximately 15 churchgoers were killed and two were wounded while attending a Sunday mass in Burkina Faso. This tragedy occurred after terrorists attacked a Catholic church in the northern part of the country. This African country has witnessed growing turmoil due to the jihadist insurgency since 2015.

– [WION News](#)

### **Two J&K Groups with Terror-Links Banned**

On 28 February 2024, the central government in India announced its decision to ban and declare the Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Sumji faction) and Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Bhat faction) as unlawful for their anti-India activities.

Mr. Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Home Affairs tweeted, ‘Striking terror networks with undiminished vehemence the government has declared the Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Sumji faction) and Muslim Conference Jammu & Kashmir (Bhat faction) as Unlawful Associations. These outfits have been engaging in activities against the sovereignty and integrity of the nation.’ – [Hindustan Times](#)

### **3 Neo-Nazis with 3D Guns Planned Attacks**

Three Neo-Nazis - Brogan Stewart, Marco Pitzettu, and Christopher Ringrose – have been charged with planning a terrorist attack in Britain. They had conspired to target an Islamic educational centre using 3D guns. Reportedly, they had been able to manufacture a FGC-9 semi-automatic firearm.

Before their arrest on 20 February 2024, they were active participants on a Telegram channel where they acquired information about weaponry and training required to carry out terrorist attacks. – [BBC News](#)

### **US-Based Businessman Funded Syrian Terror**

Imad Eddin Wadi, a businessman based in San Antonio (USA) has been sentenced to 13 years in prison for conspiring to finance activities of foreign terrorist organisations, such as al-Nusra Front in Syria. – [Fox San Antonio](#)