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Ajmal Amir Kasab Trial: Injured eyewitness identifies Kasab

Two eyewitnesses, who got a lease of life even after being caught by the terrorists of Mumbai attacks, have identified lone surviving Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Amir Kasab and the photograph of deceased militant Abu Ismail in the trial court today.

Mr Chandrakant Tikhe, Generator Operator at Cama Hospital, who was injured in the terrorist attack on November 26, last year, today deposed that police officer Sadanand Date saved his life by asking him to bend down, and firing at terrorists, who had taken shelter behind him.

Deposing before special court Judge M L Tahaliyani, the eyewitness said at around 2230 hrs on November 26, he came to know that terrorists had entered the hospital premises.

He got scared and went on the terrace of the building, where two militants saw him and called Aage Aao Varna Uda Denge (come ahead otherwise we will shoot you).

Replying to examination-in-chief by Special Public Prosecutor Ujwal Nikam, Mr Tikhe said one of the accused Ajmal Amir Kasab asked him Kaun Ho Tum (who are you?).

He replied he was a hospital staffer. Thereafter, the terrorists asked him the way to the exit. Mr Tikhe told them the only way to go out was from where they had come up.

Kasab said Chalo Aage (move ahead) and they both followed him.

While coming down through the staircase, they came face to face with police personnel headed by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Sadanand Date.

The witness was told by police personnel to bend down. Thereafter, exchange of fire took place between terrorists and police.

The terrorists threw a hand grenade, in which the witness also suffered splinter injuries at neck.

In the encounter, two police personnel were killed and three people were injured.

Another eyewitness Thomas Uledar, a teacher told the court that on that day, he had gone to Cama hospital to visit his sister, who was admitted there.

After visiting her, Mr Uledar was on his way to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to catch a train for home.

Near the Esplanade court, police asked people to disperse as firing was going on at CST. The witness returned to Cama hospital.

When Mr Uledar opened the door of ward to see what was going on outside, he saw two terrorists standing there, Kasab put his gun at him and told him to move ahead. They took him to a booth room and bolted the door from outside.

Third Panch witness Mahadeo Lambhore had identified the clothes of police personnel, who were killed during firing.

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