

## **Kasab`s Confession On Camera Be Admitted As Evidence: Kazmi**

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Mumbai: Pakistani gunman Mohammed Ajmal Kasab`s lawyer on Wednesday filed an application before a special court seeking that a "confession" by his client being aired on television channels be taken on record as evidence.

"An alleged confession recorded by the police is being shown on television channels. It should be produced before this court and taken on record," Abbas Kazmi said in an application submitted to Special Judge M L Tahiliyani.

The video recording was made soon after Kasab`s arrest while he was being treated for his injuries at a government hospital. The recording is not among the evidence submitted by the prosecution to the special court conducting the trial.

"We are seeking that since the recording has been made by the police it should be submitted as evidence before the court like all other video recordings," Kazmi said outside court.

The court has adjourned the matter.

Special Public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam also filed an application before the court seeking that three foreign nationals be allowed to depose before the court through video conferencing.

The three are among the five persons, including FBI officials, who are to depose regarding the use of telephones by gunmen to contact their handlers in Pakistan.

The gunmen involved in the November 26 terror strikes at Hotel Taj and Oberoi and Chabad House had used a US-based internet telephony firm to make international calls for keeping in touch with Pakistani handlers while engaging security forces.

FBI officials along with employees of the firm had aided the city police in getting further evidence regarding the calls made to Pakistan.

"Two of the persons will come personally to the court to give their statements," Nikam said.

However, defence counsel Kazmi sought time to file a reply in the matter and court adjourned the hearing till tomorrow.

## **Chauffeur identifies Kasab**

The chauffeur of a bureaucrat who was shot and injured during the November 26 terror strikes today identified in court arrested Pakistani gunman Mohammed Ajmal Kasab as one of armed persons who fired on him.

Maruti Phad, who drove the official vehicle of bureaucrat Bhushan Gagrani till the incident, said he was at home near G T Hospital in south Mumbai on the night of November 26 when he heard the sounds of firing and explosions.

Through television news he was aware that terrorists had attacked locations in the city and around 2330 he got a call from Gagrani stating he should take the car and go to the bureaucrat`s official residence, Phad said.

As he drove in the lane next to St Xavier`s College, Phad said he saw two persons, one short and the other tall, and on seeing the vehicle they began firing at him.

"I began driving the car in reverse and they fired at my vehicle. My hand was on the steering wheel and two bullets hit my right hand," Phad told the special court.

As he continued to drive backward, a bullet struck him in the hip due to which he ducked and also realised that one of the tyres burst due to a bullet, Phad said.

"I locked the vehicle using the central locking system and pretended to be dead by lying down in the driver`s seat and putting my hand on my head," he narrated in court.

Phad said he heard another explosion and then the two gunmen came near the door of the car and tried to open them, but failed to do so due to which they walked away.

"I then saw them hiding behind some bushes," he said, adding that after they left he kept watching their movements through the rear windshield by propping himself up.

A short while later a police vehicle approached his car but when it reached near the gunmen, they both started firing at its occupants indiscriminately, Phad said.

One of the gunmen sustained an injury to his hand due to which his gun fell but he then picked it up quickly and continued firing at the police jeep, he said.

The police vehicle which was shot at contained a team of senior personnel including the trio of Anti-Terrorism Squad

chief Hemant Karkare, Additional Commissioner of Police Ashok Kamte and encounter specialist Vijay Salakar, who were killed.

After removing the bodies of police personnel from the vehicle the duo sat in it and drove off, Phad said. He added that he stayed down in order to avoid being shot at again.

Phad said he lost a finger of the right hand due to the attack and has been unable to drive a vehicle as he cannot grip things properly.

The court also recorded the statements IAS official Bhushan Gagrani and two police officials Atmaram Shelke and Ganesh Rekunwad.

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