



AFP (FROM OUTLOOK 03 DECEMBER 2012)

INTERVIEW

‘India’s Executed The Evidence, Not Kasab’

The lawyer of LeT operative Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi says his case just got stronger

TORAL VARIA DESHPANDE INTERVIEWS SHAHBAZ RAJPUT



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Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operative Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, one of the masterminds of the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, was informed of Kasab’s hanging by his legal team. Though his reaction is not known, Toral Varia-Deshpande spoke to his lawyer Shahbaz Rajput. Excerpts:

How did you view the news of the execution?

India has followed all the legal procedures, which are almost similar to ours. So in that sense, India is well within its rights to execute any convict, including Kasab. But the way I see it, this is not the execution of Kasab, it is the execution of an importance piece of evidence.

How will Kasab’s hanging have an impact on the ongoing trial in Pakistan?

As a defence lawyer, my case just got stronger. Kasab was a piece of evidence. Ever since the case first came to the court, we have been asking for Kasab’s statement—either by way of his appearance in court in Pakistan or by way of access which India could have given to us. Our primary demand has been that Kasab be personally produced in court so that he can be examined and cross-examined according to Pakistani law. Now that possibility has just been eliminated.

How good is the legal grounding of the case as presented by the prosecution in court?

As a lawyer, and moreso as a defence lawyer, I feel that the case is very weak because the



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It is essential that India demonstrates Kasab’s execution was an aberration, not the standard.

MEENAKSHI GANGULY

prosecution has not been able to bring strong material evidence on the table. Kasab's statement was their best bet. The evidence that has been shared by India is also not very strong. If you talk about the commission that had earlier visited India, even that has not been a useful exercise since we were not even allowed to cross-question or examine the witnesses. In Commonwealth countries, any evidence gathered is subject to a judicial scrutiny. Pakistan had accepted that Kasab was a Pakistani citizen. They should have brought him to the court here in Pakistan if they were serious about the case. Simply put, this is a case of no material evidence.

With Kasab gone, will you seek the closure of the case against your client?

We haven't decided that yet. We have a battery of senior and juniors lawyers; there will be consultation and we will then decide the further course of action.

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MEENAKSHI GANGULY

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9/D-99

NOV 30, 2012
05:59 PM

Outlook India : India's Executed The Evidence, Not Kasab'
The lawyer of LeT operative Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi says his case just got stronger
Torai Varia Deshpande Interviews Shahbaz Rajput
Dec 3, Magazine

The Pakistan's perception about Kasaab's execution, is absurd, illogical and simply laughable. Going by this logic, rather lack of it, Pakistan seems to suggest that the entire case of 26/11, must be given a golden handshake and closed. Its intransigence, brazenness and un-cooperative attitude in the entire saga, is worthy of condemnation. Caste iron evidences provided by India including "voice intercepts" between the terrorists in India and their handlers in Pakistan were trashed by Pakistan under instructions from the ISI.

India's handling of Pakistan with kid gloves has misfired. This is no way of fighting a proxy war waged by Pakistan. The USA did not for a moment think about "human rights violations" while killing OSAMA through Drone attacks. Similarly, India should have gone for a limited warfare targetting the terrorist camps in POK through surgical operations. Conventional warfare will never pay off.

In Contrast, Madam Indira Gandhi would have given a befitting reply, had the attacks on Indian Parliament, Mumbai and elsewhere, taken place during her life time. The present regime is incompetent, gutless and spineless with the de jure PM, Manmohan Singh, reduced to "His Master's Voice", called Sonia Gandhi's "Pearls of Wisdom"

A K SAXENA (A retired civil servant)

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8/D-86

NOV 30, 2012
03:45 PM

How come, one can say that India has followed all procedure in law of that country in Kasab's case, and dismiss that they executed the evidence in same breath? Exactly some elementary commonsense is missing.

V.N.K.MURTI
PATTAMBI, INDIA

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7/D-83

NOV 26, 2012
04:00 PM

There is the complete evidence of the satellite transcripts of Pakistani handlers giving step by step instructions to the terrorists. There is David Headly. There are the CCTV footages of the terrorists spraying bullets in Mumbai. There are dead people on the ground (as proof for any conspiracy theorists in Pakistan). There are Kasab's own statements. IF Kasab was produced in court in Pakistan, would he necessarily have told the truth? The moment he figures that he is on home ground, he will resort to lies and may even claim he was never in Mumbai! When his conscience did not stop him from butchering people, how is it going to stop him from lying to get away? And his handlers will always brain wash him and tell him any lie told against kafirs is okay and he'll go to heaven and get his share of virgins!

RAJESH CHARY
MUMBAI, INDIA

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6/D-57

NOV 26, 2012
01:01 PM

Our home minister initially stated that even the prime minister was not aware of Kasab's execution date and that he came to know only through the TV. Perhaps it testifies the common belief that the ministers don't consider it necessary to keep the PM in loop regarding their actions- be it any major internal policy decisions or the matters relating to global ramifications.

PRAMOD SRIVASTAVA
NEW DELHI, INDIA

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5/D-165

NOV 25, 2012
09:33 PM

"The group [LeT] felt, that India was party to a wrong in the affairs of Pakistan, or that simply, India is anti-Pakistan." Aditya Mookerjee

The founder of the LeT is Hafiz Saeed, a fanatical Muslim, who tells his followers that Hindustan should be "cut to pieces" until Hindus are once again "subjugated" by Muslims like our ancestors were for a thousand years. Here is a Daily Mail article with an interview with this monster:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/indiahome/indianews/article-2125252/Lashkar-monster-Hafiz-Saeed-is-mission-ruin-India.html>

Where did Hafiz Saeed get the idea that Muslims need to "subjugate" Hindus? From Koran 9:29 which commands Muslims to convert, subjugate or kill all kaffirs. So for this thug and for millions of Pakistanis like him, the attacks against India are a religious duty to be carried out in the name of their religion and their prophet.

So quit fantasizing about Hafiz Saeed believing that India is "a party to a wrong in Pakistan" or some other self-hating stupidity.

He is telling you exactly why wants to destroy India but we are Moorkh-jees, so we do not listen.

FEDUP INDIAN
HYDERABAD, INDIA

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