

<http://epaper.timesofindia.com/Default/Scripting/ArticleWin.asp?From=Archive&Source=Page&Skin=TOINEW&BaseHref=TOIM/2009/09/17&PageLabel=13&EntityId=Ar01306&ViewMode=HTML&GZ=T>

Govt for CBI probe into Sohrab fake killing case

New Delhi: A top law officer of the UPA on Wednesday made a shrill demand before the Supreme Court to entrust further probe into the Sohrabuddin fake encounter case to the CBI saying the Gujarat police had deliberately overlooked vital facts that could have helped unravel a wider conspiracy.

Appearing as amicus curiae, solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam shredded the Geetha Johri-headed investigation into the killing in 2005 and said the state police by not following up vital leads have left loopholes in the chargesheet for the accused cops to escape the legal dragnet.

Subramaniam told a bench: “The police under the state government has not only forgotten to conduct a free and fair probe but also made a calculated attempt to obstruct unearthing of vital facts four years after the incident.” “The only solution to this is to entrust further probe to CBI. More so, because there is alleged involvement of police from three states — Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh,” the SG said. TNN

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/203057/SG-seeks-CBI-probe-into-Sohrabuddin-case.html>

SG seeks CBI probe into Sohrabuddin case

PNS | New Delhi

Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam has added his voice to the demand for a CBI probe into the Sohrabuddin fake encounter killing case. The issue is pending before the Supreme Court.

Appearing as amicus curiae in the case, Subramaniam on Wednesday stated that the investigation by the Gujarat Police into the Sohrabuddin killing was a tell-tale of getaways for the top cops arrested in connection with the fake encounter death.

Gopal Subramaniam was addressing a Bench of Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam hearing a petition filed by Sohrabuddin’s brother Rubabuddin Sheikh.

The Solicitor General, while pointing out lapses in the charge sheet prepared by the Gujarat Police with regard to its investigation conducted so far, said, “The police have made a calculated attempt to obstruct unearthing of vital facts still shrouded in mystery four years after the incident.”

The charge sheet prepared by the police has named 13 cops, including three senior officers DG Vanzara, Rajkumar Pandyan and Dinesh MN. Subramaniam said, “It (charge sheet) is full of gateways for the accused to escape.”

Subramaniam was also critical of the fact that a four-series enquiry report into the case prepared

by a top Gujarat police official had yet to see the light of the day. Even the probe conducted by IPS officer Geetha Johri in 2005, he added, stopped short of pointing out the cause and circumstances leading to the death of Sohrabuddin's wife Kauser Bi and a third person picked up by the police team, believed to be Tulsiram Prajapati, whose death has been registered as an encounter.

"The only solution to this is to entrust further probe to CBI." Subramaniam said. In favour of his suggestion, he further pointed out that the 'fake encounter' resulted from a joint operation involving police teams of three States Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. The fact that the Gujarat Police had yet not established a case against any police officials from other States led the SG to seek a CBI probe as the investigation would require inquiry into the role played by police teams of the three States.

Supporting his stand, counsel for Rubabuddin, senior advocate Dushyant Dave, pointed out that the State was far from being fair and candid in its investigations into the case. "It's one thing to say that there are terrorists and we must kill them but it's unthinkable that such terrorists are killed and the top brass in the State doesn't know about it."

Raising doubts on the State's reluctance to hand over probe into the case to the CBI, Dave argued, "Why should a democratically elected Government oppose unraveling of truth especially where a woman is killed."

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/09/17/stories/2009091766661000.htm>

"Justice waylaid in Sohrabuddin case in Gujarat"

J. Venkatesan

Unless there is an impartial probe by independent investigating agency, truth will not come out: amicus curiae

What happened to the third person who accompanied Sohrabuddin and Kauser?

"Role of Vanzara and other police officers not investigated properly"

NEW DELHI: There has been a calculated attempt to obstruct justice at every stage and delay the investigation in the Sohrabuddin encounter case, Solicitor-General Gopal Subramaniam said in the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

"This is a case of partial investigation and there was an attempt to waylay justice. There is more to it than meets the eye. Unless there is a thorough and impartial investigation by an independent investigating agency the truth will not come out," Mr. Subramaniam, appearing as amicus curiae, told a Bench of Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam.

What happened to third person?

Listing the reasons why the matter should be reinvestigated, he said there was nothing in the probe conducted by the senior police officer Geeta Johri as to what happened to the third person, who accompanied Sohrabuddin and his wife Kausar Bi from Hyderabad to Ahmedabad - whether it was Tulsiram Prajapathi or someone else.

The role of police officers D.G. Vanzara, M.N. Dinesh and Rajkumar Pandian in the encounter had not been investigated properly and no custodial interrogation was conducted; it was not known how Kausar Bi was killed, how her body was burnt and who were responsible for her killing, Mr. Subramaniam said. Nor was known anything about the role of officers who disposed of the body and of the police officers from Andhra Pradesh who had accompanied the Gujarat police from Hyderabad. The conspiracy to shut the investigation for more than one and half years must be thoroughly probed by an impartial and independent agency.

When Justice Alam asked what could be the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police in helping the Gujarat police in the encounter killings, Mr. Subramaniam said, "These are matters which require further probe." He, however, pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh police had disowned any role in the killing of Sohrabuddin. Earlier, senior counsel Dushyant Dave, appearing for Rubabuddin Sheikh, brother of Sohrabuddin, also sought transfer of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation or any other independent agency as the Gujarat government had been systematically stifling the investigations.

"Glaring loopholes"

Mr. Dave argued that there were glaring loopholes in the investigation and the resultant charge sheet showed complete negligence if not deliberate omission on the part of the investigating team. In such circumstances, the success of the prosecution was only a matter of guess. Arguments will continue on Thursday.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/25646/sc-questions-ap-police-role.html>

SC questions AP police role in Sohrabuddin encounter

New Delhi, Sep 16, PTI: *The Supreme Court on Wednesday wanted to know what could be the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police in helping their Gujarat counterparts to carry out the encounter killings of Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kausar Bi and another person.*

“What was the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police to join the conspiracy? What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done,” a bench of Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam asked Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam who is acting as amicus curiae in the matter.

The bench posed the query in response to the allegation by Subramaniam that the AP police had given logistic support to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings. The apex court's query assumes significance since AP is ruled by the Congress and Gujarat by the BJP. Besides the AP police, the role of the Rajasthan police also figured during the investigations.

The amicus curiae, who sought transfer of the investigations to an independent investigating agency like the CBI or the SIT, submitted that the AP police had a definite role in extending help to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings.

He, however, said the AP police had disowned any type of official support to the encounter or rather the state took the plea that the encounter might have been conducted with the “illegal” help of some of its officers. The allegation is that the two vehicles carrying police personnel from Andhra Pradesh had escorted the three victims from the state to Gujarat to facilitate the killings.

The amicus curiae charged there were a number of loose ends in the investigations now being conducted by the Gujarat police as the state government had been consistently making efforts to shield the accused. He submitted that due to consistent efforts by Gujarat to shield the actual culprits, no efforts had been made till date to establish how Sohrabuddin’s wife Kauser Bi and the couple’s accomplice Tulsiram Prajapati had been killed.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/sohrabuddin-encounter-case/518103/>

Sohrabuddin encounter case:

New Delhi: RESUMING the hearing in Sohrabuddin fake encounter killing, the Supreme Court on Wednesday sought to know why the Andhra Pradesh Police helped their Gujarat counterparts to carry out the killings of Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kauser Bi and their friend Tulsiram Prajapati.

“What was the motive of the Andhra Pradesh Police to join the conspiracy? What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done?” a Bench comprising Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam asked Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae.

The Bench posed the query in response to submission by Subramaniam alleging that the Andhra Police had given logistics support to the Gujarat Police in carrying out the killings.

The amicus, who pressed for the transfer of investigations to an independent investigating agency like the CBI, also submitted that the Andhra Pradesh Police had a definite role in extending help to the Gujarat Police in carrying out the killings.

However, he added that the Andhra Police had disowned any type of official support to the encounter or rather the state took the plea that the encounter might have been conducted with the “illegal” help of some of its officers. “The allegation is that the two vehicles carrying police personnel from Andhra Pradesh had escorted the three victims from the state to Gujarat to facilitate the killings.”

Sohrabuddin, Kauser Bi and Prajapati were picked up in a joint operation by the police of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh from a bus on their way from Hyderabad to Sangli in Maharashtra on November 22, 2005. Besides the AP Police, the role of the Rajasthan Police also figured during the investigations conducted so far into the killings. The hearing would continue on Thursday.

http://epaper.asianage.com/ASIAN/AAGE/2009/09/17/ArticleHtmls/17_09_2009_005_007.shtm1?Mode=1

SC: Why did AP cops aid Gujarat police?

New Delhi,

The Supreme Court on Wednesday wanted to know what could be the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police in helping its Gujarat counterparts to carry out the encounter killings of alleged gangster Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kauser Bi and another person.

"What was the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police to join the conspiracy?

What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done?" a bench of Justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam asked solicitor general Gopal Subramaniam who is acting as an amicus curiae (friend of the court) in the matter.

The bench posed the query in response to the allegation by Mr Subramaniam that the AP police had given logistic support to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings.

The apex court's query assumes significance since AP is ruled by the Congress and Gujarat by BJP.

Sohrabuddin, along with his wife Kauser Bi and their friend Tulsiram Prajapati, was picked in a joint operation by the police of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh from a bus on their way from Hyderabad to Sangli in Maharashtra on November 22, 2005.

Besides the AP police, the role of the Rajasthan police also figured during the investigations conducted so far into the killings.

The amicus, who sought transfer of the investigations to an independent investigating agency like CBI or the SIT, submitted that the AP police had a definite role in extending help to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings.

The amicus, however, said the AP police had disowned any type of official support to the encounter or rather the state took the plea that the encounter might have been conducted with the "illegal" help of some of its officers.

The allegation is that the two vehicles carrying police personnel from Andhra Pradesh had escorted the three victims from the state to Gujarat to facilitate the killings.

The amicus charged there were a number of loose ends in the investigations now being conducted by the Gujarat police as the state government had been consistently making efforts to shield the accused.

"In a case where investigations have never been fair and where the state has not been fair in the advancement of the course of justice, we must have thorough investigations into the incidents," said Mr Subramaniam, who posed the query.

http://epaper.indianexpress.com/IE/IEH/2009/09/17/ArticleHtmls/17_09_2009_601_005.shtml?Mode=1

Gujarat EDN

Sohrabuddin: `What made Andhra Police help Gujarat cops?'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court posed the query in response to the allegation by Subramaniam that the AP Police had given logistic support to the Gujarat Police to carry out the killings

THE Supreme Court on Wednesday sought to know why the Andhra Pradesh Police had helped their Gujarat counterparts in carrying out the killings of Sohrabuddin Sheikh, his wife Kausar Bi and witness Tulsiram Prajapati.

The Bench comprising justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam posed this query to Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam who is assisting the court as an amicus curiae (friend of the court).

"What was the motive of the Andhra Pradesh Police to join the conspiracy? What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done?" the Bench said.

The Bench's reply came in response to the allegation by the amicus curiae that the AP Police had given logistical support to the Gujarat Police in carrying out the killings.

The amicus curiae, who pressed for the transfer of the investigations to an independent agency like the CBI, also alleged that the AP Police had a definite role in extending help to the Gujarat Police in carrying out the killings.

He, however, added that the AP Police had disowned any type of official support to the encounter or rather the state took the plea that the encounter might have been conducted with the "illegal" help of some of its officers.

The allegation says that two vehicles carrying AP Police personnel had escorted the three victims from the state to Gujarat to facilitate the killings.

Sohrabuddin, along with Kausar Bi and their friend Prajapati, were picked up in a joint operation by Gujarat and AP Police from a bus on its way from Hyderabad to Sangli in Maharashtra on November 22, 2005.

Besides the AP Police, the role of Rajasthan Police also figured during the investigations conducted so far into the killings. The amicus curiae also accused the state police of leaving several loose ends in the investigations, as the state had been consistently making efforts to shield the accused.

"In a case where investigations have never been fair and where the state has not been fair in the advancement of the course of justice, we must have thorough investigations into the incidents, as police officers are involved in the murder," the amicus curiae urged the Bench.

To draw home his point, he pointed out that no efforts had been made till date to establish how Kausar Bi and Prajapati had been killed.

The amicus curiae pointed out that Inspector Solanki of the Gujarat CID, who had conducted preliminary investigations into the fake encounters, had recorded a number of crucial statements linking top police officers of the state to the killings, but the report has neither been submitted in the apex court nor had formed part of the chargesheet filed in the trial court.

The hearing will continue on Thursday.

<http://epaper.dnaindia.com/dnaahmedabad/epapermain.aspx?queryed=5&username=&useremailid=&parenteditioncode=5&eddate=9/17/2009>

Gujarat EDN

SC_puzzled by AP police role in Sohrabuddin case

Rakesh Bhatnagar. New Delhi

What could be the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police to aid the distant Gujarat police in carrying out the encounters of Sohrabuddin Sheikh and his wife Kauser Bi? This question puzzled the Supreme Court on Wednesday, and its judges told solicitor-general Gopal Subramaniam to help solve it. "What was the AP police's motive in joining the conspiracy? What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done?" a bench of justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam asked Subramaniam, who is assisting the court in the hearing on a petition by Sheikh's brother, seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into the fake encounters.

Earlier, Subramaniam had said the police in AP, a Congress-ruled state, had given logistic support to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings.

<http://epaper.dnaindia.com/epapermain.aspx>

Sohrabuddin encounter case puzzles apex court

Supreme Court seeks help of solicitor-general G Subramaniam

Rakesh Bhatnagar. New Delhi

What could be the motive of the Andhra Pradesh police to aid the Gujarat police in carrying out the encounters of Sohrabuddin Sheikh and his wife Kauser Bi? The Supreme Court was puzzled by the question on Wednesday, and its judges told solicitor-general Gopal Subramaniam to help provide an answer.

"What was the Andhra police's motive in joining the conspiracy? What could have actuated their action when it was not officially done?" a bench of justices Tarun Chatterjee and Aftab Alam asked Subramaniam, who is assisting the court in the hearing of a petition by Sheikh's brother. The brother has sought a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into the fake encounters.

Earlier, Subramaniam had said that the police in Andhra Pradesh, a Congress-ruled

state, had given logistical support to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings. Already, the United Progressive Alliance government is in the midst of a controversy over the encounter killing of Ishrat Jahan by the Gujarat police. The Modi government had said that the Centre had stated in an affidavit that the woman had links with the Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Sohrabuddin, along with his wife Kauser Bi and friend Tulsiram Prajapati, were pulled out of a bus on their way to Sangli in Maharashtra by the Gujarat and Andhra police on November 22, 2005. Top police officers of Rajasthan joined in the operation.

Subramaniam, who wants a transfer of the investigation to an independent agency like the CBI or the Special Investigation Team, said the Andhra police had a definite role in extending help to the Gujarat police in carrying out the killings.

The Andhra police had disowned official support to the encounter. The state claimed that the encounter might have been conducted with the 'illegal' help of some officers. The hearing in the case continues.