

In the Court of XLIX Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge
[Special Court for trial of NIA Cases], Bengaluru.

Spl.C No.595/2021

WITNESS FOR PROSECUTION

Duly sworn on 25.03.2026

PW.21/ CW. 1

Deposition of : Dr. Afroz Ahmed. M

Father's name : T. Mohammed Mustaq

Age : 34 years

Occupation : Orthopedic Surgeon

Residence : HBR Layout, Bengaluru

EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY THE LEARNED SPP:-

1. I was born and brought up in Srinivasapur, Kolar District. I did my primary schooling in Jyothi English Medium School, Chintamani. I finished my school in 2008 and came to Bengaluru to pursue my 11th and 12th standard in St. Joseph PU College. I secured a good rank in Karnataka Common Entrance Test and secured MBBS seat in Bengaluru Medical College. So I started my MBBS education in 2010. In MBBS I met my colleague Dr. Abdur Rahman and for the first two years I was not a practicing muslim. I used to pray occasionally. I was fond of fitness working out. In the gym I met Zuhaib Kashmiri and through him I met his fellow room mates Danish, Abid and Ashfaq. I also met Syed Zaid who was junior of Zuhaib Kashmiri in his college and through Syed Zaid I met his brother Syed Amr and then other colleagues namely Tauqir Mahmood (A-1), Zohaib Manna (A-2) and Ahmed Abdul Cader (A-5).

2. Initially when I started get along with this group I started to pray and started becoming more religious. Initially we used to discuss the basics of Islam as time progressed we started to discuss more hard line topics such as Jihad. Through me Dr.Abdur Rahman got acquainted with my friends mentioned as before. We used to meet after prayers and we used to go to Danish's house or sometimes we used to meet in Tauqir's house. As time passed by, we started to watch and listen to more hard line lectures on Jihad. Meanwhile, we also used to follow the news on middle east especially in Syria. We used to show each others' twitters handles which shows various atrocities being committed on muslims' women and children. We also used to discuss about Hijrah and how Jihad is a noble sacrifice. During one such meeting in Tauqir's house when we talking about on the topic of muslims' persecution in Syria it came out that Tauqir Mahmood (A-1) along with his friend Mohammed Shihab (A-4) had traveled to Syria and returned and listening to that me and Dr. Abdur Rahman expressed our wish to go to Syria. Later on I got to know that some of the friends from his own circle namely Faiz Masood and Anas Furuq had already traveled to Syria with their help. At that point of time we were to be radicalized and Tauqir Mahmood (A-1), Zohaib Manna (A-2) and Ahmed Abdul Cader (A-5) have planned for journey to Syria. We used to discuss the logistics and what has to be told to the family and when to travel were all discussed.
3. Dr. Abdur Rahman, Tauqir Mahmood and I visited a local travel agency for travel bazaar to enquire about the process of obtaining a Turkish Visa. Since we were only students at that point of time we did not have the financial means or the contacts to make this journey happen. The

funds were provided by Tauqir Mahmood and Zohaib Manna and they gave me Two lakhs rupees. Of which I deposited Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand in my brother's HDFC bank account and I used his cheque to make the payment for the flight tickets and also Tauqir Mahmood, Dr.Abdur Rahman and I went to commercial street to buy warm wear such as jackets, thermals, boots. The date of the travel was 28.12.2013, because my parents were out of town during that week for a family wedding. Two days before the departure my brother saw the flight ticket and Visa for Turkey and he panicked. So I lied to him and convinced him to keep quiet.

4. Tauqir Mahmood and Syed Zaid dropped us to the Airport. Before this, Tauqir Mahmood gave me 1000 US dollars, out of which 500 US dollars for me and another 500 US dollars to be given to Faiz Masood in Syria. Ahmed Abdul Cader gave me Rs.30,000/- worth US dollars. I myself had carried around Indian currency of Rs.10,000/- as my personal money and Dr. Abdur Rahman carried around Indian currency of Rs.40,000/- from his personal savings. Dr. Abdur Rahman and I were instructed by Tauqir Mahmood to reach Istanbul Airport and get a local SIM and wait for his contact. So we traveled to Istanbul and stayed in a Hotel Erciyes and we stayed for about two days and we paid in cash to the hotel. Tauqir Mahmood gave me the contact of a local person who will help to cross Syria border. When contacted the above mentioned person, he instructed us to book a flight to Hatay which is a bordering town to Syria. We looked around the local travel agency around the hotel and booked the tickets to Hatay and the details were conveyed to the contacted person. That contacted person picked us up from Hatay Airport and he drove in a car for about 2-3

hours and he dropped us into a remote location and handed us over to another person who helped us cross on foot into Syria and it was in the middle of the night, we walked for about two hours and another person was waiting for us on the other side and he drove us in a car for another two hours and we reached ISIS house. We stayed there for about 2-3 days and Faiz Masood had come to see us. I gave Faiz Masood US 500 dollars as previously instructed by Tauqir Mahmood (A-1). At the end of three days we got to know that there is another rival organization called Jabaht-ul-Nusra is going to attack ISIS. So we had to leave all our belongings into the house and we fled on foot to another location walking for whole night and stayed there for two days. On the next day morning there was an attack by the same rival group and Dr.Abdur Rahman got injured to his shoulder in the said attack. We were separated by the rest of the members and Dr. Abdur Rahman was taken to a hospital and I accompanied him. During treatment to Dr. Abdur Rahman in the hospital, I thought about all that is happened and decided to return back. Since we did not have any contact we took help of a local Syrian worker in the hospital and told him to help us get back to Turkey border and we paid him 500 US dollars and he arranged a cab for us which dropped us to the Turkey border and we were held at the Turkey border for 2-3 hours because we did not have the entry seal into Syria and they questioned us for about two hours and we were let to go in after paying 800 Turkish Lira which is equivalent to 200 US dollars. We reached Hatay Airport and took a flight to Istanbul. Since we had exhausted all our finances, I called my father to book the return ticket which was booked by my cousin using his credit card and my father paid him in cash for the mentioned booking. The return ticket was booked from Istanbul to Bengaluru via

- Abu Dhabi. The flight landed in Mumbai instead of Bengaluru where we cleared our immigration. From Mumbai we flew to Bengaluru and on 13.01.2014 we reached Bengaluru where we were received by our family members. During the entire journey I was in contact with Tauqir Mahmood and Ahmed Abdul Cader on Whats App. Our return journey was informed to Tauqir Mahmood who then consulted a scholar and told it is okay to return.
5. After coming back we were aware of our crime and expected some intelligence agencies to come knocking on our door. However, that did not happen. After coming back Zohaib Manna asked for any remaining money to be returned which we did not have. I met Tauqir Mahmood at one of friends' wedding and kept our conversation short and he asked if we had any trouble with any of the agencies.
 6. I met Anas Furrug who had returned back from Syria and sustained injuries to his hand. In total I met Anas Furrug about 2-3 times and we discussed our personal experience and ordeal. Then I discontinued my social media profile, my old Indian SIM number and phone and resumed back my studies. I graduated my MBBS in 2015 and met my going to be wife in 2016. We studied and I secured MS Orthopedics in Enapoya, Mangaluru and my wife got MS General Surgery in Vydehi Medical College, Bengaluru. I got married in 2017 and I finished my MS Orthopedics in June 2020 and returned to Bengaluru. After 2014 I did not have any contact with Tauqir Mahmood or Zohaib Manna.
 7. After coming back from my college, I was in Bengaluru when I got summons from NIA with regard to Dr. Abdur Rahman who was in active

contact with ISIS members. After 2014 I did not discuss anything incriminating with Dr. Abdur Rahman or anybody else and I thought even Dr. Abdur Rahman mended his ways. However, I did not expect him to be in active contact with ISIS members. I have no knowledge of what Dr. Abdur Rahman was planning or his intentions were. So I attended the summons which was given to me by NIA and I gave my statement in front of Inspector Deepak Gupta and I requested my statement to be recorded in front of a Magistrate which I did in the month of November 2020. When I appeared before NIA, I was asked to produce supporting evidence of my claims which I did and I submitted the documents which include my passport showing the travel history, my Aadhaar Card, my PAN Card, my election Voter ID, my Bank Account statement pass book, the original flight tickets which were sent to me by the travel agency to my e-mail and also the return flight tickets which were sent to me by my cousin to my e-mail. After submitting the above documents I signed the memo stating the same. I can identify the said production cum receipt memo and my signature on it. Witness identifies production cum receipt memo and his signature on it. Hence, said production cum receipt memo is marked as **Ex.P.76**. Signature of the witness is marked as **Ex.P.76(a)**. I can identify the documents produced by me before NIA. Witness identifies copy of e-mail document regarding hotel booking and cancellation of Safak Hotel. Hence, the same (2 pages) is marked as **Ex.P.77**. Witness identifies copy of e-mail document regarding hotel booking of Hotel Erciyes, Istanbul, Turkey. Hence, the same is marked as **Ex.P.78**. Witness identifies copies of two flight tickets and the same are marked as **Ex.P.79** and **Ex.P.80**. Witness identifies copy of e-mail and its attached copy of return flight ticket and the same are collectively

marked as **Ex.P.81**. Witness identifies copy of credit card statement and the same is marked as **Ex.P.82**. Witness identifies the copy of certificate of registration issued by Karnataka Medical Council and the same is marked as **Ex.P.83**. Witness today produced the original certificate of registration issued by Karnataka Medical Council for the court to compare it with the copy of the said certificate of registration which is already marked as Ex.P.83. (The court verified and compared the said certificate with Ex.P.83 and the original certificate of registration is returned to the witness). Witness identifies copy of election Voter Identity Card and the same is marked as **Ex.P.84**. Witness identifies the copy of Aadhaar Card and the same is marked as **Ex.P.85**. Witness identifies the copy of credit card issued by Citi Bank and the same is marked as **Ex.P.86**. Witness identifies the copy of Driver's License and the same is marked as **Ex.P.87**. Witness identifies the copy of PAN Card and the same is marked as **Ex.P.88**. Witness identifies the copy of bank pass book and the same is marked as **Ex.P.89**. Witness identifies the copy of front page of passport and the same is marked as **Ex.P.90**. Now I see the certificate u/S.65B(4)(c) of Indian Evidence Act issued by me and the certificate bears my signature and the same is marked as **Ex.P.91** and the signature of the witness is marked as **Ex.P.91(a)**.

8. I went to Delhi in the month of November 2020, and I gave my statement before the Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House Court, New Delhi. Witness identifies certified copy of statement recorded by the Metropolitan Magistrate, Patiala House Court, New Delhi u/Sec.164 of Cr.P.C and the same is marked as **Ex.P.92**. I can identify the accused persons. Witness identifies accused - Tauqir Mahmood

(A1), accused - Ahmed Abdul Cader (A-5), accused - Irfan Nasir (A-3) and accused - Zohaib Manna (A-2) who are produced from Central Prison, Bengaluru through VC.

(At this stage further chief examination is deferred at the request of learned SPP).

(TYPED IN OPEN COURT TO MY DICTATION)

R O I & A C

**(KEMPARAJU)
XLIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge &
Spl. Judge for trial of NIA cases,
Bengaluru.**