

## **Conviction in Quadruple Murder Case (Astarang)**

Judgement has been pronounced in the sensational murder case in which Dinabandhu Mallick (68) his wife Nirmala Mallick (45), his daughter Pranati (10) and Saswati (4) of village Dinadiha, P.S. Astaranga of Puri District were killed by accused Rahim Khan @ Himadri Sekhar Das and his wife Ayesha Begum on 21.9.2015 (night). Accused Fakir Mallick, a relation of deceased Dinabandhu Mallick is also convicted and sentenced as the conspirator. Initially the case was registered as Astaranga PS. Case No.95 of 2015 and subsequently the case was re-registered as C.B. P.S. Case No.30 of 2015 when investigation the case was taken over by the Crime Branch, Odisha. After killing deceased persons accused Rahim Khan and Ayesha Begum took away gold jewellerys, motor cycle, mobile hand set of the deceased family. On tracking the mobile hand set of deceased Dinabandhu Mallick accused Rahim Khan and Ayesha Begum were detected at Hailikhandi, Assam. They were using the stolen mobile hand set by inserting different sim cards. After arrest of the accused persons, they gave discovery of weapon of offence, stolen motor cycle, stolen jewellerys, torn napkins and other incriminating materials by leading the police team to different places.

During course of trial, the prosecution proved the charges u/s 302/392/397/120(B) IPC against all three accused persons by examining 31 witnesses and 150 documentary evidence. A number of material objects were also proved in the court. There was no eye witness to the occurrence. Considering the chain of circumstances collected during investigation, Hon'ble Trial Court (Additional Sessions Judge, Nimarpara) held that prosecution is proved by circumstantial evidence. While appreciating circumstantial evidence, the Trial Court was satisfied by the evidence of last seen theory,

seizure incriminating materials by leading to discovery, CDR of mobile phones, and scientific evidence etc, the case was proved against all accused persons beyond reasonable doubt. Additional Sessions Judge, Nimapara convicted all three accused persons and passed order of sentence against the accused persons which is as follows:-

“With due regard to the observations of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and taking into consideration all the fact and circumstances of the case, age of the convicts and other attending circumstances, the ends of justice would be best served if the convicts are sentenced to imprisonment for life i.e. confinement till natural life of the convicts. (Mimadri Sekhar Das @ Rahim Khan and Ayesha Begum)

Accordingly, each of the convicts Himadri Sekhar Das @ Rahim Khan, Ayesha Begum to undergo imprisonment for life i.e. confinement till natural life and also to pay a fine of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only and in default of said fine, they are to further undergo R.I. for six months for the offence U/Ss 302/120 (B) I.P.C. Convict Fakir Mohan Mallick is sentenced to undergo imprisonment for life and also to pay a fine of Rs.10, 000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) only and in default of said fine, he is to further undergo R.I. for six months for the offence U/Ss 302/120 (B) of I.P.C. All the convicts are also sentenced to undergo R.I. for a term of four years and also to pay a fine of Rs.2, 000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) in default to undergo R.I. for six months for the offence U/s 392 of I.P.C. No separate sentence is required U/s 397 of I.P.C. as the victim were already murdered in cold blood. The substantive sentences are to run concurrently.”

Prosecution of the case was being conducted by Sri Chitaranjan Kanungo, Public Prosecutor of Crime Branch, Odisha.