



17 NOT REQUIRED INDIANS

The Price of Freedom- 1 Million US\$

By Soniya Kirpalani

After 14 hearings at the Sharjah Court of Appeal, the Judge had no option but to insist that both parties –accused and victim-have to reach a compromise. Despite being given all these hearings, there is still no proof of their innocence been produced. At the last hearing Ramzaan, the representative of the deceased, asked for revenge, Judge Al Shamsi cautioned both parties, asking them to work out a compromise as there 17 lives were at stake. Finally, July 20th, at the 15th hearing, the 17accused may finally get the reprieve they could only dream of.

For close to 3 years, the 17Indians have had a noose hanging over their head for the alleged murder of 1 Pakistani. On March 2010, they were given the death penalty for the murder of Misri Khan. Pressured by the local press, Lawyers for Human Rights and politicians, the Indian Embassy retained lawyers Salmaan Associates to file defense. But over a year later the Courts there was no change in their situation; playing knight in the shining armor S P Oberio Singh 'bought the compromise' to swift closure.

A 4-Star Hotelier & owner of APEX Group Oberoi has taken it upon himself to organize 'Blood Money Compromises', as a service extended towards all Sikhs, facing similar sentences in UAE. He paid US \$ 65,000 as settlement for 8 Sikhs accused of murdering a 22 year old Pakistani, even before they were sentenced! Releasing them after a short 3month sentence, Singh flew them back to India, hosting a grand press conference, delivering them with hoop-hoola. He then went behind bars, with Indian Consul M P Singh, he signed a paper 'verifying' that he had the sole 'RIGHTS TO COMPROMISE'.

Judge Shamshi clarified the source of the money before granting permission for the 'Compromise' to be completed. S P Singh, stated he was representing the recently formed group of Indians and Punjabi businessmen who have collected close to 1MillionUS\$ to get the 17Indians freed. SP informed us that close to 80+Sikhs behind bars; he hopes to save them too. Retaining Salmaan Associates to fight the other cases, he will also continue to handle the compromises directly on their behalf. This has certainly won him the hearts of the 17 families and now his shoulders carry the hope of the others.



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Once the family of Misiri Khan gives them 'Forgiveness' in return for the 'Blood Money Comprise' set at 1Million (which is expected to be paid by July 27th, the Court will then hand down a new sentence to the 17accused who had been incarcerated for bootlegging and murder. But this sentence is expected to be minimal in comparison to the last. Most of them have been in prison for approximately 3years and this would bring down the sentence further. S P Singh has certainly won the hearts of the 17 families but now he carries the hope of the others. But one can only pray for the other Indians who also languish behind bars in similar situations; with such a high precedent, who will be their messiah....

For those who want to know who S P Singh is:-

SP Singh on 'Assistance' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PibG2wszwA8>

