

News / India / Qatar court sentences 8 ex-Indian Navy officers to death, MEA says exploring legal options

Qatar court sentences 8 ex-Indian Navy officers to death, MEA says exploring legal options

Responding to the development, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday expressed shock over the verdict and said India will take up the matter with Qatari authorities.

By: **Express Web Desk**

New Delhi | Updated: October 26, 2023 17:25 IST



ADVERTISEMENT



The first hearing in their trial was held on March 29. (File)

Listen to this article

00:00 1x 1.5x 1.8x

Eight former Indian Navy personnel, arrested by Qatari authorities in August last year, have been sentenced to death. Responding to the development, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday expressed shock over the verdict and said India will take up the matter with Qatari authorities.

The officers were jailed on charges that have not been made public.

“We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgement. We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options,” an MEA press release stated.

In Premium | India, Qatar and the continuing saga of eight detained ex-Indian Navy officers

LIVE BLOG

England vs Sri Lanka Live Score, World Cup 2023: ENG in shambles, all out for 156 at the Chinnaswamy
33 mins ago

Mumbai News Live Updates: PM Modi inaugurates multiple development projects in Maharashtra
42 mins ago

Israel-Hamas War Live Updates | Israeli ground forces conducted 'relatively large' Gaza incursion, says report
4 hours ago

Assembly Elections 2023 Live Updates: Rajasthan CM Gehlot slams BJP after ED summons son, raids state Cong chief's premises
4 hours ago

Best of Express



Cash-for-query case: Parl panel summons Mahua on Oct 31

...continue to extend his consular and legal assistance. He will also take up the matter with Qatari authorities. Due to the confidential nature of proceedings of this case, it would not be appropriate to make any further comment at this juncture," it added.

The first hearing in their trial was held on March 29. But even as speculation has swirled about the accusations against the Navy veterans, family sources said they had not been informed of the formal charges under which the trial is being held, either by Qatari authorities or by Indian officials who have had consular access with the prisoners.

On April 6, the MEA had said the Indian government would provide legal assistance to the men.

Also Read | 8 ex-Indian Navy men in Qatari custody: Delhi sent official to Doha, no breakthrough so far

The men were picked up by the State Security Bureau, the Qatari intelligence agency, on the night of August 30 last year. The Indian Embassy first learnt about the arrests in mid-September. On September 30, the men were allowed "brief telephonic contact" with family members. The first consular access — a visit by an official of the Indian embassy — was granted on October 3, more than a month after they were taken into custody. Since then, they have been allowed weekly phone calls to family members.

The men have been held in solitary confinement, and there is no public information of the charges against them. Their families have been urging New Delhi to secure their expeditious release.

ALSO READ



BJP goes to EC against Priyanka's remarks on PM Modi's temple visit



Delhi dials down, restores some visa services in Canada



'Rath prabharis': Ex-IAS officer, activist write to President



India resumes visa services in Canada for select categories amid diplomat...

The eight veterans — Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Purenendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh — were working at Dahra Global Technologies and Consultancy Services, a defence services provider company owned by an Omani national, a retired squadron leader of the Royal Omani Air Force. He too was arrested along with the eight Indians, but was released in November.

© IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd

First published on: 26-10-2023 at 16:37 IST

TAGS: Indian Navy Qatar

World Cup 2023: England vs Sri



LIVE | Israel mounts new sortie into Gaza, hints there may be several 'invasions'



ENTERTAINMENT
Leo box office collection day 7: Thalapathy Vijay's blockbuster passes Rs 500 crore global gross in one week; Jailer's record in sight



ENTERTAINMENT
Karan Johar asks Deepika and Ranveer if it's difficult to not cheat 'emotionally and sexually' in a celeb marriage



TRENDING
Madhya Pradesh Police constable gives 'CPR' to resuscitate snake. Watch



TRENDING
Man says his Uber Moto rider in Bengaluru turned out to be former Google employee



SPORTS