

Bring Mumbai riots accused to trial: Yakub Memon

Mumbai - Raking up the controversial Srikrishna Commission report on the 1992-93 riots here, [Mumbai](#) serial blasts' accused Yakub Memon Thursday asked a special court to first 'bring those indicted by report to trial'.

Yakub also tried to distance himself from his absconding brother Tiger Memon, alleged mastermind and one of the prime accused in the serial blasts on March 12, 1993 that killed 257 people.

The court Monday found Yakub and three other members of the influential family guilty.

'I have already been proclaimed guilty of charges that are false and fabricated,' Yakub told the court.

'We have been proclaimed guilty, but others indicted (by the Srikrishna Commission) are still roaming scot-free. These people have not even been brought to trial, let alone be found guilty,' said Yakub, speaking in fluent English.

The Maharashtra government had set up the one-man commission to probe the communal riots in Mumbai in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition.

The report was tabled in the state assembly in 1997 but the then Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv Sena combine government did not implement it.

'There should not be any injustice. Implement the report and bring the guilty to book,' Yakub pleaded.

Objecting to Yakub's statement, public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam said: 'The accused is making a political speech as if he is addressing a political meet on Mumbai's Chowpatty.'

'He should be heard on the matter of his sentence.'

The court also heard statements of Yakub's wife Rubina and brother Essa. The other convicted brother Yusuf could not attend court due to ill health.

Both Essa and Rubina pleaded their sentences be made lenient.

Special judge P.D. Kode said the court would hear arguments of both the prosecutor and the defence Friday.

The court would also record the statement of Mohammed Shaoib Ghansar, the main accused in the Zaveri Bazaar blasts that killed 17 people.

Ghansar, pronounced guilty Thursday, was charged with parking an RDX-laden scooter that exploded in the busy Zaveri Bazaar, the seventh blast in a string of gruesome attacks that rocked India's commercial capital over a space of two hours and 10 minutes on March 12, 1993, killing 257 people and injuring more than 700.

The Zaveri Bazaar blast also left 57 people injured.

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