

Interrogation

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Interrogation is the art of systematic questioning of a person who is suspected to have committed a crime or involved in a crime and of making suspect speak everything. It is an interaction of two minds, the mind of the interrogator and the mind of the suspect. This goes on till one mind triumphs over the other mind. It aims at not only establishing guilt but also at establishing innocence. The primary object of interrogation is not, as is often supposed, to obtain a confession from a suspect. It is rather to obtain truthful information. The interrogator should be vigilant about false confessions, made under duress, which, if swallowed, would put him into shame and jeopardy.

Why interrogate?

- To get at the truth of the crime with regard to:
- Event - Dramatis personae - Involvement
- Facts & circumstances, - logical understanding
- Link with other crimes & criminals & networks.
- To bring out antecedents
- To bring out immediate plans future plans
- To segregate evidence / data/ information useful for prosecution purpose/ Help recover / discover
- Develop from the Plan of action
- Confessional statement.
- Gather operational intelligence.

Qualities of a good interrogator

- Patience, personality, dress and appearance
- Self control - Moral soundness and inspire confidence
- Power of observation - language, cautious assessment
- Have a natural curiosity about human nature
- Should not flag or fumble
- Have knowledge of places, people, previous offences
- Should be clean headed
- Fluency of speech
- Have gift of insight into other's mind
- Should have gone through connected interrogation reports
- Able to sense confession
- Presence of mind
- Free from prejudices - communal, religious, political etc.
- Good memory
- Have an air of confidence
- Should be able to change his tactics.

An interrogator has to be equipped with the basics of the subject, organizations and people involved in the matrix of the respective module and an over view of the suspects involvement.

For example: Interrogation of a member of a known IS1 sponsored terrorist organization is broadly divided into the following sub-topics:

- a) Induction into Organization
- b) Local network that helped in induction
- c) Means adopted in going abroad passport etc.

- d) Training imparted - field of operations he has specialised.
- e) Arms, Ammunition and Explosives he was entrusted with
- f) How did he return to India
- g) Whom did he contact - places visited
- h) Operations carried out
- i) Local assistance
- j) Indoctrination campaign, audio video cassettes used, Madrasas visited etc
- k) Contact mechanism with their operatives who are abroad, e-mail, ISO booths used, Websites, Code-Names etc.
- l) Tech. Apparatus - cover job
- m) Hawala / Hundi transactions
- n) Ultimate objective of the organization
- o) Any vision charter of the organization.

The objective is to gain total information about the organization and gather operational intelligence. Don't disturb anything, which requires follow up action.

The following questions may be thought of while interrogating such a person:

1. How was he inducted into the organization?
2. Who was responsible?
3. What are the organizations or who are the persons who influenced him? Who is his local mentor / staunch supporter?
4. Which place of worship does he visit regularly?
5. Was he a student of a Madrasa?
6. Was he cultivated at a place of worship or at a Madrasa?
7. Does he belong to Ahle-Hadith Sect?
8. Which ideology does he believe in? Does he understand / propagate plan-Islamic concept?
9. Was he cultivated when he went to KSA or Dubai or other countries?
10. Was he in touch with anyone of the underworld dons like Dawood Ibrahim, Chota Shakeel, Tiger Memon, Yakub Memon, Omar Sheik, etc?
11. How did he secure his passport? Did he get it in his name or any fictitious name? Who helped him?
12. Which route did he take to go to Pak for Training? Is it via Bangladesh or Nepal or through Border States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and J & K or through Gulf or through Bangkok - Karachi-Bangkok route?
13. Who received him at the airport in Pakistan and where was he taken i.e., places?
14. Where did he undergo training in arms and explosives and use of Hi-Tech communication equipment, code language, etc
15. Was he selected as a trainer?
16. Who are all the operatives who met him and with whom he is in touch with? What is the means of communications adopted? E-mail, Telephone numbers code name etc.
17. What are the arms, ammunition and explosives he was entrusted with to carry?

18. Whom did he deliver such material to?
19. Was he given any videotapes of Azahar Masood or cassettes to be multiplied in India and to be distributed?
20. What are the contents of such audiocassettes and videotapes?
21. How did he return to India - Route taken - persons helped him?
22. Whom did he report on reaching India?
23. What is the work he is entrusted with? i.e.,
 - A. Supply of arms & ammunition to the anti-national outfits.
 - B. Creation of communal strife
 - C. Collection of intelligence about armed forces
 - D. Exchange of currency or circulating counterfeit Indian currency printed abroad?
 - E. Hawala transactions
 - F. Participation in underworld operations
 - G. Attacking vital installations / VIPs or other targets
 - H. Carrying forward narcotic trade I money laundering
 - I. Film making or directives to film personality, if so, details thereof.
 - J. Any other specific work
24. Who are his associates in causing Espionage, Sabotage, and Subversion?
25. What is the Technical apparatus used in speaking to or meeting people?
26. What are their immediate targets in the State or elsewhere?
27. Any "vision charter" of the organization? i.e., what is their year-wise plan?
28. Where did he hide the arms, ammunition, explosives, communication equipment, equipment meant to create mass hysteria like Azhar Masood's highly provocative cassettes etc.?
29. Who are his friends in Police Department or any other departments?
30. If he has committed offence who are his associates? How did he commit? Where did they plan? How did they procure M.Os? (Material objects)?
31. Which are the other "open organizations" lending tacit support to them?
32. What is his position in this organization?
33. Is he a courier or a contact or a trainer, a full timer or a suicide squad (Fidayeen) member?
34. Where are his dens located? Who are the den keepers, their telephone numbers, etc.?
35. If a laptop or a palm top or a telephone organizer is found, decode all the names and telephone numbers.
36. If a diary is found decipher all code names and other details written in local language.
37. Verify if any tickets or receipts are found.
38. Find out the places visited by him and contacts in such towns or cities and crosscheck with your counterparts immediately.
- 39.** Is his organization banned? Banned by India /AP /or by USA?