

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON NEW ZEELAND NRI VASHI BUILDER SUNIL LOHRIYA



Prime suspect Bijlani exchanged 105 calls with Navi Mumbai CP

Call detail records show that the calls began in April last year and continued till two days before the builder's daylight murder; a senior inspector in Vashi also exchanged 114 calls with Bijlani

March 26, 2013 – Mumbai - Akela

Commissioner of Police for Navi Mumbai Ashok Sharma and Senior Inspector Rao Saheb Sardesai of Vashi police station were in constant communication with Suresh Bijlani, suspected conspirator of the Sunil Kumar Loharia murder case, and close associate of fugitive gangster Chhota Rajan.



Suresh Bijlani, suspected conspirator of Sunil Kumar Loharia murder case, and close associate of fugitive gangster Chhota Rajan

The call details record (CDR) retrieved from Bijlani's phone show that in a few months, Sharma and Sardesai had exchanged 105 and 114 calls respectively with Bijlani. On March 21, 2013, Sandeep Loharia alias Sunny, son of the deceased Navi Mumbai builder Sunil Kumar Loharia, complained to several authorities, demanding action against Sharma and Sardesai. Sunny complained that he had requested Sardesai to record his father's statement many times before his death, but was ignored.

“Sardesai was continuously pressurising me not to give the names of Bijlani and Garg,” said Sunny. Speaking to MiD DAY on an earlier occasion, Sharma had claimed that he did not know Bijlani. Later, however, he admitted that Anurag Garg had introduced him to Bijlani.

But CDR shows that before being appointed as the police commissioner of Navi Mumbai, Sharma had been in touch with Bijlani. Sharma became the CP on June 22, 2012. CDR show that on April 12, 2012 around 9.35 pm, Sharma and Bijlani talked with each other for 90 seconds. On June 16 around

10.56 pm, they had another conversation, 49 seconds-long. A slew of phone calls followed throughout the year (see box).

On February 14, two days before Loharia's murder, a one-second-long call was exchanged between the two at 10.16 pm. Sharma and Bijlani also used to walk together on mornings at the NRI complex. When they got wind that Loharia had clicked their pictures on these walks, they shifted the venue of their meetings to DY Patil stadium, and met in the evenings.

On September 14, Vashi police had arrested Loharia. CDR from September 13 show that Bijlani spoke to Sardesai for 18 seconds on that day. On the day of the arrest, they had five conversations for 83, 97, 57, 69 and 108 seconds respectively.

The Mumbai Crime Branch has arrested former encounter specialist Emmanuel Samuel Amolik, local builder Sumit Bachewar, two hitmen Venkatesh Shettiyar and Wajid Qureshi in the case. Loharia was shot dead in broad daylight outside his office in Vashi on February 16.

According to Crime Branch officials, both Bijlani and Garg were called in for questioning when the case was with the Navi Mumbai police. "Even though they are the prime suspects in the case, the cops have not taken necessary precaution, such as impounding their passports," said a Crime Branch officer, on condition of anonymity.

Bijlani and Garg are absconding. The courts have rejected their anticipatory bail plea.

The Other Side

"All allegations are false. It is untrue that I spoke to Bijlani before becoming commissioner of police," said Sharma. Senior Inspector Rao Saheb Sardesai said, "I am in a meeting. Call me later." Himanshu Roy, joint commissioner of police (crime) and Niket Kaushik, additional commissioner (crime) were not available for comment.

CALL RECORDS: SHARMA AND BIJLANI

July 13, 2012: 142 seconds

July 18, 2012: 136 seconds

August 10: 170 seconds

August 11: 201 seconds

August 13: 185 seconds

September 4: 160 seconds

September 5: 277 seconds

September 11: 368 seconds

December 31, 2012: 116 seconds

Afternoon
DESPATCH & COURIER

Loharia was facing builders' wrath

Monday, February 18, 2013

By Amit Srivastav

The deceased Sunil Kumar Loharia had spent 14 days in police custody in a cheating case in September last year. He was arrested after Sumit Bachewar, another builder, registered a complaint with Vashi police station claiming that S.K. Brothers, the company run by the Loharia family, had duped him of Rs.50 crore in a land deal.

But the Loharia family claimed that Sunil was targeted by the builders lobby because he worked as a whistleblower. "My father was against the FSI scam in Navi Mumbai. A case regarding this was also registered against several high profile builders from the city at the Nerul police station," said Sunil's son Sandeep Kumar.

He also demanded the arrest of Abhishek Builders, builder Vijay Gajra, Suresh Bijlani, Sumeet Bachewar, Bhupesh Saha and architect Anurag Garg.

"He was enemies with other builders in the city and we had arrested him after builder claimed that Loharia tried to extort money," said a police official from Vashi police station. A builder requesting anonymity said Sunil Kumar used to extort money from builders.

According to his family, Loharia had made demands for security from Navi Mumbai police but to no avail.

Sandeep added that the family has no faith in Navi Mumbai police and wish the case to be transferred to the Mumbai crime branch.

[http://www.afternoondc.in/city-news/loharia-was-facing-builders-wrath/article 76132](http://www.afternoondc.in/city-news/loharia-was-facing-builders-wrath/article_76132)

'Accused in Palm Beach FSI scam threatened me'

By Akela |Posted 09-Dec-2011

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Complainant alleges 11 people entered his office, demanding that he sign an affidavit stating he wanted to withdraw the FIR; CCTV footage at his office captures the accused

A day after the Navi Mumbai police registered FIRs against DCP Dattatray Shinde, NMMC officials and a group of developers for forging documents for the construction of a 21-storey building in Kharghar and another on Palm Beach Road, the complainant claims to have received threats from the accused.

The building in Kharghar that was allegedly constructed by violating FSI norms

NRI Sunil Lohariya (51) registered a complaint in Vashi police station, alleging that Shinde and the others have been intimidating him incessantly, demanding that he withdraw his FIR at Nerul and Kharghar police stations.

"In three days, I got more than 50 threat calls from a city DCP, his subordinates, politicians and builders to withdraw the FIR," Sunil Lohariya told MiD DAY.

Lohariya owns a construction business in New Zealand and has an office at Sector 29, Vashi. He said that on Wednesday morning, 11 persons accused in the Palm Beach FSI scam, came to his office and threatened him to withdraw the complaint. They made an affidavit in the name of Lohariya and gave it to him to sign (copy with MiD DAY), he alleged. The pictures of the accused have been captured by the CCTV cameras installed in Lohariya's office.



Stills from the CCTV footage captured at Lohariya's office that show the 11 accused entering and seated in his office

"One of the accused, Dinesh Patel, threatened me to withdraw the complaint against Shinde. They also produced an affidavit in my name, which states that I want to withdraw the complaint, and demanded my signature on it," said Lohariya. "But I refused to sign it." The accused have given him 24 hours to sign the affidavit or be prepared to face the consequences, Lohariya said.

After the incident, Lohariya complained to Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Javed Ahmed via an SMS. Later, Senior Inspector Laxman Kale of Vashi police station went to Lohariya's office and recorded his statement.

Said Kale, "Some persons against whom an FIR has been lodged at Nerul and Kharghar police stations went to Lohariya's office. I have recorded Lohariya's statement, and the investigation is on."

Lohariya is also mulling approaching the court. Advocate Mayura Maru, his lawyer, said, "On Friday, I will file a writ petition in the High Court, asking for a detailed inquiry in the matter. It should be clear who made the false affidavit."

Asked about the threats, DCP Shinde said, "I don't know anything about the matter. I don't even know any Dinesh Patel."

The FIRs
On Monday, the Nerul police registered an FIR against Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) officials Umesh Patil, Dilip Kulkarni and Sanjay Banaiet and six partners of

Vighnagar developers in the Palm Beach Road FSI scam. The names of the partners are Vijay Raoji Gajra, Lada Punja Ravasia, Dinesh Keshavji Patel, Versi Khimji Dama, Govind Dhavji Varchand and Keshavji Gavji Gala. All of them have been absconding. The accused used more than the sanctioned FSI and earned crores in Vighnagar Heights, a 21-storey tower on Palm Beach Road, Vashi. The alleged breach came to light after Lohariya's complainant. The Kharghar police also registered an FIR against DCP Dattatray Shinde, top CIDCO and MSEB officials and Abhishek builders and developers, under several IPC sections.

These accused have allegedly forged the documents and cheated the government of FSI while constructing a 21-storey building at Kharghar. The complainant in this FIR is Lohariya's associate, Pramod Narayan Mittal (42).

- See more at: <http://www.mid-day.com/articles/accused-in-palm-beach-fsi-scam-threatened-me/145413#sthash.zrI9RoQO.dpuf>



Sunil Kumar Lahoria

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Sunil Kumar Lahoria (about 1961 – February 2013 **[Navi Mumbai](#)**) was a builder from **[Mumbra](#)**, **[Thane district](#)**, India who was killed in February, 2013 after reporting area illegal buildings. This occurred about a year and a half before the collapse of an illegal building in **[Thane on 4 April 2013](#)**, killing 74 people.^[1]

In 2011, Lahoria informed municipal and state authorities that within **[Navi Mumbai](#)** there were more than 600 **[illegal buildings](#)**. He also filed a writ petition in the **[Bombay High](#)**

Court. Construction of the buildings also violated floor space index (FSI) rules, including development of additional storeys.^[1]

21 towers on Palm Beach Road were included in the count of 600 illegal buildings. According to **Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation's** (NMMC) **town planning** officer, Prakash Thakur: one of the towers is being investigated by the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority and action has been taken on 20 towers.^[1]

In addition to the complaints to governmental authorities and the court, he also questioned **CIDCO** and **Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation's** (NMMC) role in allowing the construction to occur.^[2]

Starting the latter half of 2011, about six months before Lahoria's murder, he received death threats from builders with criminal connections. Although protection was requested of the Navi Mumbai police, he never received it.^[2]

Death^[edit]

In February 2013, Lahoria sustained five bullet wounds and a slash to his hand and neck outside of S K Brothers Builders & Developers' Office, his real estate company in **Navi Mumbai**. The two men who shot him wore private security guard uniforms, one of whom knocked a coconut into his head after he had fallen to the ground. Intending to perform a mock funeral, the men had 'agarbattis' and a garland with them^{[1][2]}

Having seen the incident, two workers in Lahoria's office chased the men. They were able to catch one of the men, a hitman named Venkatesh Shettiyar, who was placed in police custody. The victim's son, Sunny Kumar, claimed that the names of "two prominent developers" had been given by the captured gunman; on the other hand, the gunman told police that he committed the murder because he had not been paid a large commission.^[2]

Anurag Garg and Suresh Bijlani, both still escaping incarceration, are suspects in his murder.^{[1][2]}

Lahoria's son, Sandeep Kumar has continued his father's crusade to mitigate illegal buildings. He has also written to the state Director General of Police and the Prime Minister's Office about the handling of his father's murder investigation. He called out two specific Navi Mumbai senior policemen and questioned the easy treatment of the suspects, including not seizing their passports.^[1] Of his father, he said:

My father paid a very heavy price for exposing irregularities that took place with the active involvement of government officers. He made use of the Right to Information Act to deal with corruption, but he was killed.^[1]

See also[[edit](#)]

- [2013 Thane building collapse](#)

References[[edit](#)]

1. ^ **Jump up to:**^{[a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#) [f](#) [g](#)} Vijay Singh, TNN (10 April 2013). "Lahoria's expose of illegal buildings led to murder?". Times of India. Retrieved 10 April 2013.
2. ^ **Jump up to:**^{[a](#) [b](#) [c](#) [d](#) [e](#)} Vijay Singh, TNN (17 February 2013). "Gunmen kill builder, hold mock funeral". Times of India. Retrieved 9 April 2013.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunil_Kumar_Lahoria