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## Agartala Conspiracy Case

After submitting 6 point demand the central government of Pakistan filed a case against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. What was the case? What was the response of the people of east Pakistan towards the case?

⇒ After <sup>the</sup> submission of 6 point demand the central government of pakistan filed a case against Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which was called Agartala Conspiracy case. It was framed by the Pakistani government in 1968 during the Ayub Khan regime against Awami League chief Sheikh mujib, some army personnel,

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high government officials. They were accused of being involved in a conspiracy to ~~see~~ separate <sup>the</sup> East ~~pakistan~~ wing from Pakistan with the help of the government of India.

The appeal was that the conspiracy was being fabricated between Indian party and the accused person at Agartala city of Tripura, India. Thus the case was thus called Agartala Conspiracy case.

Since the beginning of Pakistan, the people of east pakistan were deprived of their legitimate rights, which brewed <sup>in them</sup> a resentment against the Pakistani rulers.

The demand for autonomy placed through

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the six point programme received spontaneous support of the people of East Pakistan. The acute disparity in the armed force led some Bengali army officers and soldiers to be united secretly and they decided to make east Pakistan independent through an armed revolt. This conspiracy was detected by the Pakistani govt and nearly 1,500 Bengalis were throughout Pakistan were arrested. But as the general election of 1970 was knocking at the door, the govt decided to frame charge only against 35 political personalities and high government

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officials under the civil law.

The hearing of the case started on 19 June 1968. Sheikh Mujibor Rahman was enrolled as accused No. 1. The case was entitled "State vs Sheikh Mujibor Rahman and others".

The case proceeded in a highly protected chamber inside Dhaka cantonment. A charge-sheet consisting of 100 paragraphs against the 35 accused was placed before the tribunal. There were 227 witnesses including 10 approvers.

Thomas William, a British lawyer and a British parliament member, wrote petition in Dhaka High Court

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tribunals = court of inquiry

on behalf of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman challenging the legality of the formation of the tribunal. Meanwhile the streets of Dhaka became a hot bed of turmoil and Sergeant Zahurul Haq, the 17th accused in the case was mercilessly shot to death while in confinement in Dhaka cantonment. The news of his death led a furious mob to set fire to the State Guest house as well as other buildings. Some of the files concerning the case were burnt to ashes.

In the face of this man

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movement, the Ayub govt. was ultimately compelled to withdraw the Agartala Conspiracy case on 22 February 1969. All the accused, including Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were set released unconditionally.