

s6(a): classification
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New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
Te Pā Whakamarumaru

Security Intelligence Report | SIR

Report Date: 3 August 2018

Report No: DMS6-15-615

Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen aspires to join ISIL; considers an attack in New Zealand

Summary

1. (S) On 29 June 2018, New Zealand permanent resident Ahmed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen was released from prison on bail. Mohamed Samsudeen pleaded guilty to reduced charges of possessing restricted material, and awaits sentencing on 7 August 2018.
2. (S NZEO) NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen almost certainly continues to adhere to an extreme Islamist ideology and aspires to travel offshore to participate in militant jihad. s6(c), s6(a)
3. (S NZEO) If he is unable to travel, NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen is highly likely considering an ideologically motivated act of violence in New Zealand. s6(a)
4. (S) This assessment is based on intelligence as at 31 July 2018.

Report Detail

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Background

5. (R NZEO) On 19 May 2017, Ahmed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen (DPOB: 16 April 1989, Sri Lanka) was arrested by New Zealand Police (Police) at Auckland International Airport whilst attempting to depart New Zealand. NZSIS assessed Mohamed Samsudeen intended to travel to Syria, via Malaysia, to engage in militant jihad alongside the

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Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Mohamed Samsudeen was charged with numerous offenses¹, including nine charges of knowingly distributing objectionable material of an extreme Islamist nature.

6. (R NZEO) On 27 June 2018, the nine objectionable material charges laid against Mohamed Samsudeen were reduced to two charges of possessing restricted publications². On 29 June 2018, Mohamed Samsudeen pleaded guilty to the reduced charges of supplying restricted publications, using a document for pecuniary advantage, and failing to assist Police exercising a search power. He was later released on bail subject to a number of conditions³, s6(a) [REDACTED].
7. (R NZEO) Mohamed Samsudeen's sentencing hearing is scheduled for 7 August 2018 at the Auckland High Court and it is highly likely he will not serve any further time in custody due to time already served.

Mohamed Samsudeen's continued adherence to an extreme Islamist ideology

8. (S NZEO) Intelligence indicates Mohamed Samsudeen almost certainly continues to adhere to an extreme Islamist ideology and is highly likely supportive of ISIL. s6(a) [REDACTED]

Mohamed Samsudeen has posted images on Facebook depicting ISIL-related quotes and martyrdom and made comments supportive of extreme Islamist scholars, organisations and teachings.

9. s6(a): [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

s6(a) [REDACTED]

10. s [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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11. s6(a): [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

12. s6(a): classification s6(a), s6(c) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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13. (S NZEO) s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14. (S NZEO) s6(a) [REDACTED]
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15. s6(a): s6(a) [REDACTED]
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16. s6(a): classification s6(a) [REDACTED]
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17. s6(a): classification s6(a) [REDACTED]
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Mohamed Samsudeen's travel aspirations

18. (S NZEO) s6(c), s9(2)(a)

19. s6(a): classification s6(a)

20. (S NZEO) Reporting from mid-July 2018, indicates Mohamed Samsudeen likely does not fully understand the impact of his criminal convictions on his ability to travel internationally. For example, when informed by his probation officer of the possible release condition requiring him to notify his probation officer of any travel plans, he was reportedly taken aback and said 'so I am not a free man'. If no travel restrictions are imposed, NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen is more likely to attempt to depart New Zealand than to undertake an attack in New Zealand.

21. s6(a): classification s6(a)

Mohamed Samsudeen demonstrates increasing security awareness

22. s6(a): classification Intelligence indicates Mohamed Samsudeen believes he is being monitored by Police and would continue to be under surveillance until his sentencing hearing (7 August 2018). s6(a)

23. s6(a): NZSIS is also aware of Mohamed Samsudeen attempting to identify (Police) surveillance. s6(a)

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24. s6(a): classification s6(a)

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25. (S NZEO) s6(a)

26. s6(a): s6(a)

27. s6(a): classification s6(a)

NZSIS Assessment

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28. (S NZEO) s6(a)

given Mohamed Samsudeen's ongoing interest in militant jihad, terrorist attacks and ISIL propaganda NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen highly likely believes dying a martyr is the most dedicated way he can demonstrate support for his extreme Islamist ideology.

29. (S NZEO) Although reporting suggests Mohamed Samsudeen has not yet committed to a course of action, NZSIS continues to assess he highly likely remains intent on leaving New Zealand for the purpose of engaging in militant jihad alongside a terrorist entity. However, NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen is highly unlikely to be able to travel legally without the assistance of the New Zealand Government in the near term.

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30. (S NZEO) NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen's sentencing date is highly likely to be a key point in his decision making. If Mohamed Samsudeen is prevented or otherwise unable to travel, NZSIS assesses he will highly likely consider undertaking an ideologically motivated act of violence in New Zealand as an alternative means of expressing his extreme Islamist ideology. s6(c), s9(2)(a), s6(a)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen could mobilise and/or commit an opportunistic act of violence with little or no warning.
31. (S) NZSIS is working closely with New Zealand Police and continues to investigate Mohamed Samsudeen's activities of security concern as a priority.

References

s6(a)

1. (R) Mohamed Samsudeen's original charges were as follows:
 - a. Nine charges of knowingly distributing objectionable material under the Films, Videos and Publications Classification Act 1993 (subsequently reduced to two charges);
 - b. One charge of possession of an offensive weapon (subsequently dropped);
 - c. One charge of failing to assist in the exercise of a search power; and
 - d. Two charges of using a document for pecuniary advantage (subsequently reduced to one charge).
2. (R) The Office of Film and Literature Classification (OFLC) Review Board determined that the objectionable material Mohamed Samsudeen was charged with distributing was classified as 'objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years'.
3. (R) Mohamed Samsudeen is subject to the following release conditions:
 - a. s6(a);
 - b. allow Police to check any electronic devices in his possession and surrender this within 24 hours of the request;
 - c. operate only one Facebook page in a public setting which has to be declared to Police;
 - d. attend any interviews required for the purposes of preparing a pre-sentence or psychiatric report;
 - e. surrender his Sri Lankan passport to Police; and
 - f. to not apply for any travel documents.
4. s6(a)
5. (S) s6(a)

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6. (S) s6(a)

ENDS

NZSIS Contact: Intelligence Publications Manager s6(a)

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