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New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
Te Pā Whakamarumaru

Security Intelligence Report | SIR

Report Date: 10 July 2018

Report No: DMS6-15-611

SIR: Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen—initial post-release assessment

Summary

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1. (S NZEO) On 29 June 2018, NZSIS subject of counter-terrorism investigation Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen was granted bail and released from prison. Mohamed Samsudeen is subject to a number of bail conditions whilst he awaits sentencing on 7 August 2018. It is highly unlikely he will serve any further time in custody due to time already served.
2. (S NZEO) While he has only been released for a short period, intelligence indicates Mohamed Samsudeen almost certainly continues to adhere to an extreme Islamist ideology. s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. (S NZEO) s6(a) [REDACTED] intelligence indicates Mohamed Samsudeen has no immediate plans to travel; further, he is restricted from doing so by his current bail conditions which include surrendering his Sri Lankan passport to NZ Police.
4. (S NZEO) s6(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] NZSIS has no intelligence to indicate he is currently planning an ideologically motivated act of violence. NZSIS continues to monitor for any indications he may mobilise towards violence.
5. (S NZEO) This assessment is based on intelligence as at 9 July 2018.

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Report Detail

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Mohamed Samsudeen pleads guilty to reduced charges and is released on bail

6. (S NZEO) On 19 May 2017, Ahamed Aathil Mohamed Samsudeen (DPOB: 16 April 1989, Sri Lanka), a Sri Lankan citizen and New Zealand Permanent Resident, was arrested by New Zealand Police (NZP) 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 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 Islamist extremist nature.
7. (R NZEO) On 27 June 2018, 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'. The objectionable material charges laid against Mohamed Samsudeen were therefore reduced to charges of possessing restricted publications.
8. (R NZEO) Following this decision, Mohamed Samsudeen submitted an application for bail which was granted on 29 June 2018. During his bail hearing, Mohamed Samsudeen pleaded guilty to the reduced charges of possessing restricted publications, using a document for pecuniary advantage and failing to assist NZP exercising a search power.
9. (R NZEO) Mohamed Samsudeen is subject to a number of bail conditions² whilst he awaits sentencing, s6(a)
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 activities following his release from prison

10. (S NZEO) Since Mohamed Samsudeen's release from prison, reporting indicates Mohamed Samsudeen has primarily been focussed on undertaking administrative activities, such as visiting lawyers, obtaining financial support from Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ), opening bank accounts and retrieving his possessions from both Mt Eden prison and NZP.
11. (S NZEO) s6(c), s6(a)
We note that the terms of Mohamed Samsudeen's bail include the surrender of his passport.

12. (S NZEO) s6(c), s6(a)

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13. (S NZEO) Mohamed Samsudeen has not indicated he still intends to travel offshore at a later date; however, NZSIS assesses there is a realistic possibility he believes he s6(a) would then be able to safely return to Sri Lanka. Under this change of conditions NZSIS assesses he may be more likely to seek to depart New Zealand.

Mohamed Samsudeen's continued adherence to an extreme Islamist ideology

14. (S NZEO) s6(a)
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26. (S NZEO) s6(a)

NZSIS Assessment

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27. (S NZEO) NZSIS assesses Mohamed Samsudeen almost certainly continues to adhere to an extreme Islamist ideology and remains supportive of ISIL. s6(a)

Given Mohamed Samsudeen's continued support for ISIL, and his previous intent to travel and undertake militant jihad offshore, NZSIS assesses he likely maintains an aspiration to depart New Zealand for this purpose.

28. (S NZEO) There is no intelligence to indicate Mohamed Samsudeen is planning imminent travel offshore. NZSIS assesses it is highly unlikely Mohamed Samsudeen will seek to return to Sri Lanka prior to his sentencing hearing due to his bail conditions s6(a). NZSIS further assesses any offshore travel planned by Samsudeen would highly likely occur following the outcome of his sentencing hearing, as he may believe this would result in him being free to travel without assistance or interruption from authorities.

29. (S NZEO) s6(a)

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NZSIS has no intelligence to indicate Mohamed Samsudeen is currently planning an ideologically motivated act of violence. However, we are continuing to monitor for any indications he may mobilise towards violence, especially in relation to his sentencing hearing and any possible future travel plans.

End notes

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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;
- b. One charges of possession of an offensive weapon (subsequently dropped by NZP);

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- 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.
2. (R) Mohamed Samsudeen is subject to the following release conditions:
- a. s6(a)
 - b. possess only one electronic device and surrender this device to NZP within 24 hours of this demand;
 - c. operate only one Facebook page, using the public setting, which has to be declared to NZP;
 - d. attend any interviews required for the purposes of preparing a pre-sentence or psychiatric report;
 - e. surrender his passport to NZP;
 - f. and to not apply for any travel documents.
3. (R) s6(a)
4. (R) s6(a)

ENDS

NZSIS Contact: Intelligence Publications Manager s6(a)

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