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## Two get lifer under SC/ST Act

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KANPUR: The special court of the SC/ST Act of Kanpur Nagar on Thursday convicted two persons for committing murder of a Dalit and sentenced them to life imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 20,000 on each.

The presiding officer, S K Pandey, in his order observed that half of the fined amount (Rs 40,000) be given to the complainant as compensation.

The sentenced persons were identified as Shiv Kumar Pahari and Puttan, both residents of Gwaltoli area. They were charged by the police under section 302 of IPC and section 3-2(5) of the SC/ST Act.

According to prosecution officer, Pradeep Saxena, the accused -- Shiv Kumar Pahari and Puttan -- had hacked to death one Rakesh alias Babloo, a resident of their locality on May 17, 2004, in broad daylight. Pahari was trying to get an illegal power connection through an electric pole. In that process, he disconnected the power line of the complainant, Binda Devi's house. Binda's son, Rakesh objected to this, which resulted into heated arguments between the two parties.

Pahari brought a sharp-edged weapon from his house and attacked Rakesh. Co-accused, Puttan helped him in committing the offence. He struck several blows on the neck of Rakesh, who died on the spot.

During the arguments, prosecution officer apprised the court that Pahari was a habitual offender and police had earlier slapped the Goonda Act on him.

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