

Three Arrested over Murder of a Popular Indian Rapper

Last month, Amritsar held a vigil for Sidhu Moose Wala, the murdered Punjabi rapper.

Indian police have arrested three men suspected of murdering Sidhu Mowla who was a hip-hop icon. They also confiscated a cache of weaponry including a grenade launcher from the suspects.

Moose Wala, also known as Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu was shot to death in his vehicle in the northern state Punjab.

The 28-year old was a well-known singer in India and also among Punjabi communities all over the world, especially in Canada and Britain.

Special police commissioner H.S. Dhaliwal told reporters in Delhi on Monday that three suspects were taken into custody in the western state of Gujarat over the weekend.

Police recovered high-explosive grenades, a rocket launcher, an assault rifle, as well as electronic detonators that were stolen from the suspects.

Local media reported that Goldy Brar is a gangster from Canada who claimed to be the perpetrator of the murder of the rapper and was in contact with the hitmen in the day of the incident.

According to the Hindustan Times newspaper, a police officer claimed that Brar had spoken to one of the shooters the day prior to the incident and instructed him to ensure the death of Moose Wala.

According to the officer, "If guns fail, you can kill him with an explosion."

Moose Wala rose to fame through catchy songs that criticized rival rappers and politicians and portraying himself as a man who stood up for the pride of his community and justice, as well as shot down enemies.

He was criticized for promoting gun culture through his music videos in which he frequently posed with firearms.

His murder also brought to light organized crime in Punjab which is a major way for drugs to enter India through Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Many observers link the rise in violence among gangs and the rise in the use of weapons illegally to the narcotics market, which is primarily comprised of heroin and opium.