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Celebrities having Criminal Records

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“A celebrity is someone who is famous, especially in areas of entertainment such as films, music, writing, or sport. From Salman Khan’s hit and run case to Sanjay Dutt’s possession of illegal ammunitions case, it has always been seen that celebrities in India as well as in other countries get away with crime far more easily than an ordinary person.”

In general no one wants to commit crime in general but situation makes, being celebrity having media attention, lot of fan following celebrities will be utmost careful in there social life as anything mischievous will attract lot of public attention. But there are many celebrities in India who has accused and even convicted of various crimes. In this project lets look into criminal background of celebrities in detail.

I. INTRODUCTION

“A celebrity is someone who is famous, especially in areas of entertainment such as films, music, writing, or sport.”² From Salman Khan's hit-and-run case to Sanjay Dutt's illegal ammunition possession case, it has always been clear that actors, both in India and abroad, get away with even more crime than the common man.

In general no one wants to commit crime in general but situation makes, being celebrity having media attention, lot of fan following celebrities will be utmost careful in there social life as anything mischievous will attract lot of public attention.

“Article 14 uses two expressions Equality before law which implies the absence of any special privileges in favour of individuals and the subject of all classes to the ordinary law and equal protection of the law which implies Equal Treatment in Equal Circumstances” But in practicality if a common man commits a crime and a celebrity committing the same crime whether are they treated equally?

Drugs, gambling, rash or negligence acts, threatening journalists, carrying illegal guns, driving without a licence – you name it, and some star has actually done it and getting away with it after paying fines or fighting laws. And when they are on trial, they are provided with advanced facilities and are treated as though they are on holiday from work. Fans all around

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² <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/celebrity>

the world begin pleading their beloved celebrities' claims, referencing his charitable disposition and all the good works he may have performed before or after committing a serious crime such as endangering the life of another.

Are we too blinded by the limelight of these stars that we tend to ignore their misdeeds, hence making it easier for them to get away with crime easily:

The answer would be yes as

Easily bailed out: Celebrities are affluent people and have more money than conscience, but they are bailed out before the rest of the world has had time to absorb the news of their detention. They show it as a very natural procedure in which a cop arrests them on suspicion of a crime and their lawyer arrives to drive them home, much as they do in serials and movies. How will anyone learn to be more cautious and considerate with the administration's rules until they have the chance to live a hard life behind bars.

2. No fear of image tanning: When celebrities are exposed in public, they are not bothered with their image getting tanned as a result of their acts. And if they are sentenced to years of imprisonment, they are generally released before the period begins, and their lives return to normal shortly after, which is not true with a regular man who may be bankrupt and facing a challenge to his reputation and career as a result of name tanning. Celebrities with their larger-than-life egos will take pride in doing whatever they want as long as their fame is not jeopardized.

3. Money talks: When a celebrity is embroiled in a lawsuit, the case is usually decided outside of court. The claimant gets the settlement funds, and the case is dismissed. That explains why most celebrity charges disappear from the press and police files quicker than they are filed. Sexual harassment accusations against celebrities are easily drowned out by false claims that the victim's family are actually attempting to extort money from the celebrity by tarnishing his reputation. Is it possible for an ordinary person to get away with a rape charge as quickly as this, even though the case is false? We all know the answer is a resounding no.

4. They just don't learn: The most surprising part of celebrities getting away with crime is that they don't know or learn from their mistakes. For examples bolly wood celebrities like salman khan.

5. Impartiality: "Everyone is biased towards celebrities, including administration and people. They get treated better and receive appraisals for petty works that a common person would do on a daily basis. Similarly, when they are convicted or alleged of a crime, everyone

starts showing love and affection to them to the extent that a pressure is built upon administration to release the celebrity. We are star stuck to such an extent that we ourselves have created walls that acclaim that they are so much better than us and that their life matters more than the life of us common people.”

6. Better defense: Celebrities have access to exceptional counsel, or the best there is, to defend them in court. If the best attorneys on such kinds of cases are pitted against incompetent government lawyers on behalf of the accused, we all know where the ball will end up.

II. CELEBRITIES HAVING CRIMINAL RECORDS:

In India the supreme law of the land guarantees Right to equality but sometimes it is said that “justice is denied or delivered in India on the basis of the celebrity status, political clout or financial status of a person as well.” There are live examples from salman khan to sanjay dutt who are accused of serious charges but are set free now:

1.Salman Khan:

Abdul Rashid Salim Salman Khan is an Indian film actor, producer, occasional singer and television personality who works in Hindi films. Salman Khan was ranked number 82 in Forbes 2018 list of Top Paid 100 Celebrity Entertainers in the World. He often referred as king of bollywood and even care of Controversies. .

Hit-and-run case:

Salman Khan's Land Cruiser collided with a bakery on September 28, 2002. Four homeless people were injured in the crash, and one person died. Salman Khan fled away from the crime scene. He was charged with culpable homicide, but the charges were later dismissed for whatever reason.³ Formal charges against him were not brought against him until 2013, of which he pled adamantly not guilty. Salman Khan claimed that he was not driving the car it was his driver who drove it.

On May 6, 2015, Khan was found guilty of all charges in the investigation. Khan was driving under the influence of alcohol when he killed one person and seriously wounded four others, according to the Bombay Sessions Court. Sessions Judge DW Deshpande found the actor guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and sentenced him to five years in prison. The Bombay High Court later that day awarded Khan, who was represented by Senior

³ Ahmed, Zubair (3 September 2003). "Bollywood homicide charge dropped". *BBC News South Asia*. Last accessed at 10:00 PM on 2ndmarch2021

Counsel Amit Desai, bail until May 8, 2015,⁴ following which the court postponed his jail term until the final appeal hearing in July. His driver, Ashok Singh, who testified that he was driving at the time of the accident, was charged with perjury and arrested for providing false evidence to the court.

In December of 2015, Salman Khan was acquitted of all charges regarding the case due to lack of evidence⁵. The Maharashtra government filed a petition in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, July 5, 2016, opposing Salman Khan's acquittal in this hit-and-run case by the Bombay High Court. The court failed to speed up the case. The appeal was still pending before supreme court of India.

Blackbuck hunting and Arms Act violations cases:

In 1998, Khan and his co-stars Saif Ali Khan, Sonali Bendre, Neelam, and Tabu were filming the film *Hum Saath-Saath Hain* in the forests of Jodhpur when a deer was allegedly killed.⁶ Salman spent a week in prison in Jodhpur in 2007 before being given bail by the judge. Khan was charged with possessing and using weapons with an expired license under sections 3/25 and 3/27 of the Arms Act, in addition to being convicted of hunting endangered antelopes under the Wildlife (Protection) Act.

Khan was sentenced to one year in jail on February 17, 2006, for killing Chinkara, an endangered species. On appeal, the conviction was stayed by a high court Judge.⁷

On April 10, 2006, Khan was sentenced to five years in prison and remanded in the Jodhpur jail until April 13, when he was granted bail. On July 24, 2012, the Rajasthan High Court finalized charges against Khan and his associates in the endangered blackbuck shooting case, enabling the trial to begin. The Supreme Court released a notice to Khan on July 9, 2014, in response to the Rajasthan government's petition challenging the High Court order suspending his conviction. On July 24, 2016, Khan was acquitted in the blackbuck and chinkara poaching cases by the Rajasthan High Court.⁸ On 18 October 2016 the Rajasthan Government decided to approach the Supreme Court to challenge Khan's acquittal in two related cases⁹.

Khan was acquitted in an Arms Act case involving the killing of a blackbuck in Rajasthan by a Jodhpur court on January 18, 2017. Khan has signed a "not guilty" plea on charges of

⁴ "Salman Khan: Court suspends Bollywood star's sentence". *BBC News*. 8 May 2015. Retrieved 8 May 2015.

⁵ Salman Khan acquitted in 2002 hit-and-run case, breaks down in court after hearing the verdict". *The Times of India*. Last accessed at 11:00 PM on 20th february 2021

⁶ "The deer hunter". *The Independent*. 15 November 1998. Last accessed at 11:00 PM on 20th february 2021

⁷ "Chinkara case: Salman Khan told to appear in person". *The Times of India*. 7 February 2011. Retrieved 18February 2021.

⁸ <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/actor-salman-khan-acquitted-in-poaching-cases-1435705>

⁹ "Chinkara case: Rajasthan govt to approach SC against Salman's acquittal". Yahoo!. Retrieved 5 April 2018.

intentionally possessing and using unlicensed firearms. The actor was acquitted because the prosecution failed to present enough evidence against him, according to the court.¹⁰

3) **Threatening Bandra fisherman family's 2011:** Fisherman families in Mumbai's Bandra district have accused Salman Khan and his bodyguards of pressuring them to move their boats and fishing nets that were blocking the star's cottages' view of the sea. Three complaints were lodged with the Bandra police station between September 2011 and May and December 2012, but instead of filing FIRs against the bodyguards and actor, police only filed non-cognizable offenses, according to the survivor Lawrence Falcon (65)

2. Sanjay Dutt:

Sanjay Dutt, a well-known Bollywood star, was sentenced to five years in prison for his part in the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case. TADA, or the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, was used to prosecute him. After being apprehended at the airport in 1994, the actor admitted that mafia boss Abu Salem had paid a visit to his home in January 1993 with Magnum Video owners Samir Hingora and Hanif Kadawala, both suspected close associates of infamous underworld boss Dawood Ibrahim. According to Dutt, they had three AK-56 rifles with ammo, one of which he had kept. He said he wanted the gun to defend his family after they were attacked during the Mumbai riots that followed the demolition of the Babri mosque in December 1992. On February 25, 2016, Dutt was eventually released from prison.¹¹

The adage that "Lady Justice is blind" may not always be true, but there have been instances where the courts have delivered justice and punishment to deserving individuals. Sanjay Dutt, a Bollywood actor, served a lengthy prison sentence as a result of his actions. Even though he had a powerful ally in the form of his father Sunil Dutt, who was a member of India's Parliament in 1993, he was sentenced to prison.

3. Nandamuri Balakrishna:

Nandamuri Balakrishna, a Telugu actor and the son of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister NT Rama Rao, has been charged with attempted murder under Indian Penal Code section 307 and Indian Arms Act sections 25 and 27. On the night of June 3, 2004, he was accused of opening fire at his Jubilee Hills home in Hyderabad, attacking film producer B Suresh and

¹⁰ Salman Khan acquitted of Arms Act violations in 1998 case – Times of India ►". *The Times of India*. Last accessed on 15 February 2021.

¹¹ <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/sanjay-dutt-convicted-in-1993-bombay-blasts-case-gets-5-years-in-jail-516881/> Last accessed on 16 February 2021.

astrologer Satyanarayana Choudhary. His wife, Vasundhara, and their driver, Kanakaiah, were also charged. Suresh and Choudhary both testified in court that they were fired at by an unidentified fan standing next to Balakrishna, not the actor himself. "Almost all the witnesses, except the actor's gunman and forensic experts, turned hostile in the court, in a highly suspicious turn of events. The three were acquitted of all charges in April 2005."¹²

4. Shiney Ahuja:

Shiney Ahuja (born 15 May 1975) is an Indian film actor who received the Filmfare Best Male Debut Award in 2005 for Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi and has since starred in a variety of popular films, including Gangster, Woh Lamhe, Life in a Metro, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, and Welcome Back.

"Ahuja was arrested in June 2009 on suspicion of raping, detaining, and threatening his 19-year-old domestic servant. He was charged under the IPC's Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (threat to kill).¹³ During the trial, his maid (the victim) changed her mind and admitted that she had never been raped. The judge, however, believed the maid lied under duress, and Ahuja was sentenced to seven years in prison for raping his housemaid in 2011."¹⁴

5. Sooraj Pancholi:

In Mumbai, Aditya Pancholi and Zarina Wahab gave birth to Pancholi on November 9, 1990. His grandfather Rajan Pancholi was a filmmaker, and both of his parents are Bollywood actors. Jiah Khan (25) was discovered hanged in her room by her mother in 2013, and in a letter she wrote, she claimed that actor "Aditya Pancholi's son, newbie actor Suraj Pancholi, had cheated on her, physically abused her, and forced her to have an abortion. Sooraj walked out of the Arthur Road Jail in central Mumbai in July after being arrested for abetment of suicide on June 10, 2012. The Bombay High Court had granted Sooraj relief, stating that the 22-year-old aspiring actor cannot be held solely responsible for his actress-'impulsive' girlfriend's act. ' No doubt it was unfortunate that a young girl has committed suicide. The case was still in pending."¹⁵

6. Saif Ali Khan:

Apart from the black buck poaching case with fellow actor Salman Khan, Saif Ali Khan

¹² I shot them ...they attacked me ..." *The Times of India*. 7 June 2004./ Last accessed at 11:00 PM on 2ndmarch2021

¹³ "Remember Shiney Ahuja? The Gangster actor is completely away from the limelight". mid-day./ Last accessed at 8:00 PM on 1stmarch2021

¹⁴ Shiney Ahuja, fallen Bollywood star, jailed for raping maid". *The Guardian*. 31 March 2011./ Last accessed at 6:00 PM on 1stmarch2021

¹⁵ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/sooraj-pancholi-opens-up-about-jiah-khans-suicide-metoo-and-more/articleshow/72015122.cms/> Last accessed at 7:00 PM on 1stmarch2021

reportedly assaulted a South African businessman in 2012 at the Wasabi Restaurant in Taj, Colaba, when seated next to actors Kareena Kapoor, Karishma Kapoor, Amrita Arora and her husband Shakeel Ladak, Bilal Amrohi, and Malaika Arora Khan. The actor was arrested and charged with assault under section 325 of the Indian Penal Code, only to be released on bail later.

7. Monica Bedi:

Known more as a girlfriend of the underworld don Abu Salem rather than a Bollywood actor, Monica Bedi was arrested and sentenced to a five years jail term in 2005 in a passport forgery case.¹⁶ Bedi and Abu Salem were arrested and sentenced to prison in Portugal in September 2002 for entering the country using forged documents. In 2006, an Indian court found Bedi guilty of obtaining a passport under a false name. The Supreme Court of India upheld her conviction in November 2010, but reduced her sentence to the time she had already served.

8. Navjot Singh Sidhu:

Navjot Singh Sidhu is an Indian politician, television host, and former cricketer who was born on October 20, 1963. He served as Punjab's Minister of Local Government, Tourism, and Cultural Affairs. Sidhu was convicted of murdering Gurnam Singh by attacking him in 1991. Following the incident, he was arrested by Punjab Police and spent several days in a Patiala prison.¹⁷ Sidhu reportedly had an accomplice who aided him in the murder of Gurnam Singh; the suspected accomplice's name was Bhupinder Singh Sandhu. Sidhu has dismissed any of the allegations leveled against him. In court, Sidhu said he was innocent and had been "falsely accused in this case by the appellant side." Jaswinder Singh, Gurnam Singh's nephew, appeared to be a witness to the crime and was able to testify in front of the Supreme Court of India. Following a road rage incident in December 2006, Sidhu was found guilty and sentenced to three years in jail for culpable homicide. Following his conviction, Sidhu resigned as a Member of Parliament and lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court in January 2007. In February 2007, the Supreme Court reversed his conviction and sentence, enabling him to run for and retain the Amritsar Lok Sabha seat.¹⁸

III. CONCLUSION

It is undeniable that celebrities get away with crime easily with their muscle and money

¹⁶ Monica Bedi vs State Of A.P/ <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/1104661/>

¹⁷ "State Of Punjab vs Navjot Singh Sidhu And Anr.

¹⁸ https://web.archive.org/web/20070216143030/http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Sidhu_gets_three_years_in_jail_wont_be_arrested_now/articleshow/732379.cms/ Last accessed at 11:00 PM on 2ndmarch2021

power. They typically have more financial clout, pitting the brightest lawyers against the most incompetent government lawyers. The strangest thing is that their market worth maintains its luster, and in some instances, still increases. And after completing their sentence, they make a heroic return and are warmly embraced by the public, while a common man is greeted with animosity even after being acquitted by the judge. People have a soft spot for action stars, and celebrities. Many individuals, including the newspapers, begin to focus on their social work to the point that even the courts will be influenced but for justice system CM to PM i.e Common Man to prime minister everyone are equal they must be treated equally. Many people across country take these celebrities as there role models, If the celebrities go on committing the crimes it may be petty or heinous it gives wrong message to future citizens, They should not forget that they are not exemption to law and they are also equal before law.

“The laws shouldn't be biased, criminals shouldn't be given escape route because of their size of pocket. Those involve in misdeed should be punished severely, seeing hard life behind bar can only deter them from repeating crime. Others also get lessons, inhibits them from indulging in anti-social activities.” Justice may be delayed but not denied in India who so ever it may be he will be penalized at some point of time if he is proven guilty. It may take some time as Indian justice system believes let 100 guilty persons may escape not even one innocent should suffer.

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