

# Charges, Trials and Punishment; Understanding the role of Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan in the Revolt of 1857

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## Abstract

*The main objective of this research paper is to assess the role played by Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan in the Revolt of 1857. Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan had taken a leading part in the rebellion. This research paper aims to analyse the charges imposed on Nawab and his trial proceedings. The trial of Nawab was started in Delhi, by order of Major General C.B. Penny following instructions from Sir John Lawrence, Chief Commissioner of Punjab. The Commission consisted of the following members- President-Brigadier General Chamberlain, Members Lieutenant Colonel Dawes - Horse Artillery, Major Palmer- 60<sup>th</sup> Rifles, Major Redmond-61<sup>st</sup> Foot, Major Sawyer-6<sup>th</sup> Carbineers, Interpreter Lieutenant Waterfield, 23<sup>rd</sup> N.I., Prosecution for Government-Major F J Harriott- Deputy Judge Advocate General. In my research and studying significant Urdu and Persian documents, I found how Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan decided to cast his lot with Bahadur Shah Zafar. He communicated with the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar and presented a nazr to the King. Colonial legal system was prejudiced and biased during the repression of uprising in Delhi and adjoining areas. The same attitude was witnessed towards Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan as he was depicted as an active participant of revolt. Historical discourse has been majorly silent on the participation of chiefs under Delhi residency in the uprising of 1857. The role of Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan in mobilising the masses and providing financial aid to Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar is seldom discussed by historians. Therefore, I have traced the events of 1857 uprising with special reference to Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan.*

This research paper will assess the Trial proceedings of Nawab Abdur Rehman Khan who challenged the British Authority. The uprising of 1857 is a historical landmark in Indian history. My objective is also to widen the horizons of history writing in India with special reference to the role of Nawab of Jhajjar.<sup>1</sup> Initially, research on 1857 was limited with an emphasis on ruling classes, sepoys and feudal lords. There was no detailed study on chieftancies under the Delhi residency.

The initial study on 1857 was done by Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan and his two books *Asbab Bagawat e Hind* and *Sarkashi Zila Bijnaur*. V. D Savarkar published "*The first War*

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