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Publishers of booklet booked for sedition

Neel Kamal, TNN, Jun 28, 2010, 04.57am IST

BARNALA: Opposition against the Union Government's Operation Green Hunt, launched against Maoist forces, is building up. If the groups resisting the government measures were earlier spreading their word through posters, they are now resorting to booklets to spread the message.

The Barnala Police came across a 12-page booklet, titled Sant Kahende Rahe, and have registered a sedition case against its publishers. Although the case was lodged on Sunday, no arrests had been made even on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Surinder Singh, Bhim Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Sumandeep Singh and Kulwant Singh.

"The case was registered after going through the contents of the booklet and obtaining legal opinion," Barnala DSP Rupinder Bhardwaj told TOI. All 12 pages of the booklet are dedicated to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. He said the booklet does not only have pictures of killed terrorists, but openly advocates terrorism. Its last few pages exhort to become terrorists and indulge in anti-government activities, he added.

Last month, police had registered a large number of cases at Ferozepur, Dhuri, Barnala, Bathinda under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, after posters against Operation Green Hunt had surfaced. Krantikari Pendu Mazdoor Union leader Sanjiv Mintu was arrested in one such case and still behind bars in a Barnala jail.

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