

o HERALD o

Goa's complete online news edition

[Home](#)

Four acquitted in dowry death case

News

- [Goa](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Science & Technology](#)

Editorial

- [Edit](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [Letters](#)

Goa Diary

- [Events](#)
- [Short Takes](#)

Classifieds

- [Matrimonial](#)
- [Situations](#)
- [Accommodation](#)
- [Properties](#)
- [Business Offers](#)
- [Others](#)

BY HERALD REPORTER

PANJIM, MAY 14 — The District and Sessions Court, South Goa Margao has acquitted four persons accused in connection with death of a woman in Curchorem allegedly due to dowry harassment eight years ago, on the grounds that the prosecution failed to prove the charges of subjecting her to cruelty before her death owing to dowry demands.

Archana Killedar who had married Anil in May 1997 succumbed to burn injuries at Curchorem in February 1998 under mysterious circumstances and later a case of harassment for dowry leading to her death was filed against her husband and four others.

Case was booked against Anil Killedar (husband) - a government servant, his brother Arun, his mother Shakuntala, his sister Anita Garud and his father Madhav Killedar charging them for committing offences under Sections 304-B, 489-A of the IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Madhav died after charge sheet was filed and accordingly the proceedings against him abated.

Acquitting the four, the III Additional Sessions Judge Desmond S D'Costa said there is not an iota of evidence to show that

Search

Pic of the Day



[The sight of a possible landslide](#)

[Magazines](#)

- [Mirror](#)
- [Insight](#)
- [Sports Watch](#)
- [Junior Herald](#)
- [Friends](#)

Obituaries

- [Deaths](#)
- [Month's Mind](#)
- [Anniversaries](#)

Your Corner

- [Articles](#)

Photos

Photos

Weather

Goa / Panjim, IN

90 °F / 32 °C

Haze

at 11:30 AM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Contact

- [Feedback](#)

just before her death, the accused had subjected Archana to such cruelty so as to drive her to commit suicide.

No direct evidence of the accused actually demanding any valuables from Archana's family could be proved by the prosecution.

The judge agreed to the contention of Adv Menino Teles who appeared for the accused that there was no evidence at all to show that there was any understanding that if the gifts were not given, the marriage would not go ahead. Making references to provisions of Dowry Prohibition Act, the judge said dowry means any property or valuable security given by one party to a marriage to the other party, as consideration for the marriage of the said parties.

For Archana's wedding, an agreement was signed by fathers of the bride and groom listing the items to be exchanged by the two parties. The judge said there is nothing to show that the gifts were exchanged as the consideration of the marriage and as such, they are exempted from the concept of dowry, he added.

The prosecution examined 34 witnesses in support of its case including 11 relations of Archana. P P Bhanudas Gaonkar who represented the State said that from day one of the marriage the accused persons were demanding a wooden cot from the family of Archana, a point, which was disproved by the defence lawyer.

Going through the case thoroughly, the judge in his 43 page judgement, said the relations had given different and conflicting versions about the "demands" for cot, loan for truck, loan for a house, gold chain and clothes. It has come on record that the investigating officer Mahesh Gaonkar recorded the statements of the witnesses more than one month of the incident. "... This put the court on guard in assessing their evidence", the judge

[More...](#)

Poll

How would you react to the forthcoming film on 'Da Vinci Code'?:

Boycott the movie

Ask government to ban movie

Agitate against movie

Watch the movie

Can't Say

[previous polls](#) | [results](#)



[Rank & Bolt Awards](#)