

Both Jewish groups want their own trustees

HT Correspondent

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MUMBAI: The dispute over ownership of the Chabad House in Colaba, south Mumbai, is now being fought before the charity commissioner.

Eliran Russo, constituted attorney of Rabbi Nachman and Freida Holtzberg, Moshe's grandparents, has opposed induction of new trustees in the Chabad India Trust, which was founded by Moshe's parents — Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg.

Russo had filed affidavit last week through his counsels Ashish Ved and Manoj Jaiswal opposing the Change Report filed by Shailesh Dalvi, advocate with law firm Mulla and Mulla.

A Change Report is an application for introducing change in trusteeship.

Dalvi was inducted as a trustee by Gavriel in 2006. After death of Holtzbergs, Dalvi has sought induction of Moshe Dov Gansborg and Joel Kurulkar as trustees instead of Gavriel and Rivka.

Russo has opposed this Change Report stating that Dalvi is not Jewish and hence cannot file a Change Report.

Russo's counsels had also filed a Change Report in 2009, seeking induction of Nachman, Shimons Rosenberg (Rivka's father) and one Moses Samson as trustees.

The Chabad Trust is collecting money for reconstructing the building.

"Also there is likelihood that



■ Chabad House in Colaba, south Mumbai, had witnessed the deaths of Rabbi Gavriel and Rivka Holtzberg during the 26/11 terror attacks. HT FILE PHOTO

funds collected may be misused," alleges Russo's affidavit.

Pervez Rustomkhan, counsel for Dalvi, sought time to file his reply on Russo's affidavit.

Dalvi, who was present in the charity commissioner's office, refused to speak saying, "No comments."

Assistant charity commissioner BS Kharade will now hear the case on December 3.

Rabbi Joseph Kantor, who claims he was appointed by the New York-headquartered Chabad Lubavitch as its official "responsible for the rebuilding effort in Mumbai" is also opposing induction of Nachman and Rosenberg.

Kantor has filed a suit in the city civil and sessions court against Russo carrying out renovation at the Nariman House.

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The defence in 26/11 case on Friday told the High Court that confessions of Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab's confessional statement not be accepted as true if he gave voluntarily. Advocate Amin Solkar, counsel for the 23-year-old Kasab, said that the magistrate had issued mandatory provision for recording Kasab's confession. Solkar said the magistrate, who had recorded Kasab's confession, had not recorded her subjective statement that the Pakistani gunman confessed voluntarily. Solkar said the subjective statement was not disclosed from the material," he added. According to the defence, the court cannot rely on a statement of a person who openly admitted that he had no remorse. Solkar said that Kasab's confession was voluntary. Solkar said that whatever Kasab committed was wrong," he said. He added that the confessional statement cannot be relied on as he had stated in it that he wanted to send a message. He also submitted that some wrong statements were incorporated in the statement which created suspicion about its credibility.