

➤ **Famous Trials of the Nationalist Period**

Trial	Charges	Verdict
1. Bahadur Shah Zafar; January 27, 1858 to March 9, 1858 in Red Fort (Delhi)	Treason, conspiracy, rebellion, and complicity in murder in the 1857 Revolt	Convicted and exiled to Rangoon (Burma; now Yangon, Myanmar)
2. Surendranath Banerjea; May 4–5, 1883 in Calcutta High Court	Contempt of court on his remarks in <i>The Bengalee</i> concerning a high court judge	Convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment
3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak; 1897, 1908, and 1916	Provocative articles in his newspaper, <i>Kesari</i> , in 1897 and 1908, and speeches delivered in 1916	18 months' imprisonment (1897); 6 years' exile to Mandalay and fine of Rs 1,000 for seditious writings (1908); no jail sentence was imposed (1916)
4. Aurobindo Ghosh and 37 others from the Anushilan Samiti in Alipore Bomb Conspiracy Case Trial; 1908–09	Attempt to murder Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, Douglas Kingsford	A year in jail as an undertrial prisoner and acquitted due to lack of evidence
5. V.D. Savarkar; September 1910–December 1910	Waging war against the King-Emperor for insurrection and procuring and distributing arms and abetting the killing of Nasik assistant magistrate, A.M.T. Jackson.	Two consecutive life transportations (50 years); the International Court of Arbitration at the Hague also held him guilty; spent 10 years in the cellular jail of the Andaman (1911–21)
6. Gandhi and Shankarlal Banker (publisher of <i>Young India</i>); 1922, Ahmedabad	Four inflammatory articles against the British in <i>Young India</i> following the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement	Sentenced to jail (Gandhi) for 6 years but set free in 1924 on medical grounds; one year's imprisonment to Banker
7. Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Roshan Singh, and Rajendra Lahiri (from the Hindustan Republican Association); 1925–27	Robbing a train in Kakori near Lucknow to secure funds for freedom struggle	Sentence of death to Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, and Roshan Singh (1927), others receive 4–6 years life transportation
8. 31 communists in the Meerut Conspiracy Case; 1929–33	Conspiracy against the British	Received sentences varying from 3 years to life sentence
9. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt June 1929	Throwing a symbolic bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly	Transportation for life to Batukeshwar Dutt
10. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev; July 1929	Conspiracy and murder of police officer, Saunders	Sentenced to death and executed on March 23, 1931, in Lahore Jail
11. M.N. Roy; 1931–32	Conspiracy case in 1924 and sedition charges in 1932	Sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment (later reduced to 6 years) in 1932
12. Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal, and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon in the INA trials in 1945 at Red Fort, Delhi	Waging war against the King Emperor, murder or abetment of murder	Sentences of transportation for life (remitted); those of cashiering and forfeiture of arrears of pay and allowances confirmed