

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 24.05.2016

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.CHOCKALINGAM
and
THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE M.V.MURALIDARAN

H.C.P.No.283 of 2016

Karthikeyan

...Petitioner

vs.

1. The State of Tamil Nadu
Rep.by its Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department
Fort St.George, Secretariat,
Chennai -600 009

2. The District Collector and
District Magistrate of Vellore District,
Vellore.

...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 07.12.2015 in her office Ref.C3.D.O.No.115/2015 against the petitioner's wife by name Tmt.Santhi, W/o.Karthikeyan, aged about 47 years, now confined at Special Prison for Women, Vellore, Vellore District and set aside the same and direct the respondents to produce the above said detenu before this Court and set her at liberty

For Petitioner : Mr.E.Kannadasan

For Respondents : Mr.M.Maharaja
Addl. Public Prosecutor

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O R D E R

[Order of the Court was made by G.CHOCKALINGAM, J.]

Challenge is made to the order of detention passed by the second respondent vide Proceedings in Ref.C3.D.O.No.115/2015 dated 07.12.2015, whereby the wife of the petitioner, by name, Santhi, aged 47 years, wife of Karthikeyan, was branded as a "Bootlegger" under the Tamil Nadu

Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Cyber Law offenders, Drug Offenders, Forest Offenders, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Sand Offenders, Sexual Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video Pirates Act, 1982 [Tamilnadu Act 14 of 1982].

2. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, Mr. E. Kannadasan, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, confines his argument only in respect of non-application of mind on the part of the detaining authority in passing the order of detention.

3. Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submitted that page No. 52 in the booklet furnished to the detenu is illegible and could not be read at all. This illegible copy would deprive the detenu of making effective representation to the authorities against the order of detention. Thus, the detention order is vitiated on the ground and the same is liable to be quashed.

4. Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the order of detention has been passed on cogent and sufficient materials and the same cannot be interfered with at the instance of the petitioner. Therefore, he submits that the Habeas Corpus Petition does not merit any consideration and the same is liable to be dismissed.

5. We have heard the learned counsel for both sides with regard to the facts.

6. A perusal of the booklet supplied to the detenu would show that the copies of documents referred and relied upon and referred to by the Detaining Authority, in particular, page No. 52 is illegible and is totally unreadable. This has resulted in the detenu being deprived of making an effective representation. Therefore, the detention order is vitiated and liable to be quashed on this ground alone.

7. It is a trite law that personal liberty protected under Article 21 is so sacrosanct and so high in the scale of Constitutional values that it is the obligation of the detaining authority to show that the impugned detention meticulously accords with the procedure established by law. Preventive detention is preventive and not punitive. When ordinary law of the land is sufficient to deal with, taking recourse to the preventive detention law is illegal.

8. In the light of the above facts and law, we have no hesitation in quashing the order of detention on the above mentioned ground.

9. Accordingly, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the impugned detention order passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detainee is directed to be released forthwith unless her presence is required in connection with any other case.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(J)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The Secretary to Government,
The State of Tamil Nadu
Home, Prohibition and Excise (XVI) Department
Fort St.George, Secretariat,
Chennai -600 009
2. The District Collector and
District Magistrate of Vellore District,
Vellore.
- 3 The Superintendent,
Special Prison for Women, Vellore,
Vellore District.
4. The Joint Secretary to Government Public
(Law & order), Fort St. George, Chennai. 600 009.
5. The Additional Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras.

MG(CO)
Eu 02.06.16

H.C.P.No. 283 of 2016

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