

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 27.05.2016

CORAM

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

H.C.P.No. 570 of 2016

Alice

..Petitioner

Vs.

1. The State of Tamilnadu
rep. By its Secretary to Government (Home)
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Commissioner of Police
Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai - 7.

..Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records relating to the order of detention of my son Prince Alwin son of Yesudas has been detained under Act 14/82 as a "Slum Grabber" vide detention order datd 08.02.2016 on the file of the 2nd respondent herein, made in BCDFGISSV/71/2016 quash the same and consequently direct the respondents herein to produce the body and person of the said detenu before this Court and thereafter set him at liberty from the Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai.

For Petitioner : Mr. M.Rajavelu

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

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 Memo No.71/BCDFGISSSV/2016 datd 08.02.2016, whereby the detenu/the son of the petitioner, by name, Prince Alwin, aged 25 years, son of Yesudas, was branded as a "Slum Grabber" 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.M.Rajavelu, 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. 249 etc., and certain other pages in the booklet furnished to the detenu are illegible and could not be read at all. This illegible copies 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.249 etc., are illegible and are 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 detenu is directed to be released forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

ssd/ga

Sd/-
Asst.Registrar

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

To

1. The State of Tamilnadu
rep. By its Secretary to Government (Home)
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai - 600 009
2. The Commissioner of Police
Chennai Police,
Vepery, Chennai - 7
3. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.
4. The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Puzhal, Chennai.
5. The Joint Secretary to Govt.
Public (Law & Order),
Fort St.George, Chennai 600 009.

KR/8/6/16

H.C.P.No.570 of 2016

सत्यमेव जयते

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