

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 31.08.2020

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE N.KIRUBAKARAN
AND
THE HONOURABLE MS.JUSTICE V.M.VELUMANI
H.C.P.No.359 of 2020

Veluchandran

... Petitioner

Vs

1.State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented by its Secretary,
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.

2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Cuddalore,
Cuddalore District.

3.The Inspector of Police,
Neyveli Township Police Station,
Cuddalore District.

... Respondents

PRAYER : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of Writ of Habeas Corpus, calling for the records of the detention order dated 14.01.2020 in detention order No.C3/D.O./02/2020, on the file of the Second respondent herein and quash the same and direct the Respondents herein to produce the detenu Makki @ Mahesh, Hindu aged about 19 years who is now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore before the Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Prabakaran.

For Respondents: Mr. R. Prathap Kumar,
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R
(Order of the court was made by N.KIRUBAKARAN.J.,)

The matter was heard through "Video Conference".

2.The father of the Detenu has filed this Petition challenging the Detention Order passed by the Second Respondent in No.C3/D.O./02/2020 dated 14.01.2020 as he has got two adverse cases registered against him apart from the ground case.

3.Heard Mr.C.Prabakaran, learned Counsel appearing for the Petitioner and Mr.R.Prathap Kumar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the Respondents.

4. It is seen from the records that the representation sent on behalf of the detenu has not been considered within time frame and there is a delay of 20 days in considering and disposing of the representation.

5.In the decision in "C.Muthuvali Vs. The Principal Secretary to Government, Home Prohibition and Excise Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009" reported in "[(2017) (1) MWN (Cr.) 270 (DB)]" it has been held that an unexplained delay of nine working days on the part of the Government in considering the representation rendered the detention illegal. Another Division Bench of this Court in "Samaiah Vs.The Secretary to Government" reported in "[(2007) (4) MWN (Cr.) 145]" has held that an unexplained delay of three days in disposal of the representation made by the detenu would be sufficient to set aside the detention order.

6.Further, a larger Bench of the Supreme Court in "Rekha Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu" reported in "2011 5 SCC 244" has held that "Preventive detention is by nature repugnant to democratic ideas and an anathema to the rule of law. No such law exists in the USA and in England (except during war time). However, Article 22(3)(b) of the Constitution of India permits preventive detention, we cannot hold it illegal but we must confine the power of preventive detention within very narrow limits, otherwise we will be taking away the great right to liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India which was won after long, arduous, historic struggles".

7.Since there is an unexplained delay in considering the representation submitted by the detenu, the detention order passed by the second respondent is liable to be set aside.

8.Accordingly, the detention order passed by the Second Respondent in No.C3/D.O./02/2020 dated 14.01.2020 is quashed and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu viz., Makki @ Mahesh, Hindu aged about 19 years who is now confined in Central Prison, Cuddalore is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless his presence is required in connection with any other case.

-s/d-
Assistant Registrar

True Copy
Sub-Assistant Registrar

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To

- 1.The Secretary,
Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Cuddalore,
Cuddalore District.
- 3.The Inspector of Police,
Neyveli Township Police Station,
Cuddalore District.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison,
Cuddalore.
- 5.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras,
Chennai.

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6.The Joint Secretary
Public (Law and Order) Department
Fort St.George
Secretariat
Chennai - 600 009.

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