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H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 15..12..2022

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The Honourable Mr. Justice **P.N.PRAKASH**
and
The Honourable Mr. Justice **N.ANAND VENKATESH**

Habeas Corpus Petition No.1265 of 2022

Manimegalai

..... Petitioner

-Versus-

- 1.The State Rep. by its
Secretary to Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Fort St. George,
Government of Tamil Nadu,
Chennai 600009.
- 2.The District Collector and District Magistrate,
Vellore District, Vellore.
- 3.The Superintendent,
Central Prison, Salem,
Salem District.
- 4.The Superintendent of Police,
Vellore.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Katpadi, Vellore District.

.... Respondents



H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records of the 2nd respondent in connection with order made in D.O.No.61/2022-C3 dated 15.05.2022 passed against the petitioner HUSBAND ASHOK KUMAR, aged 39 years, Son of Senthurapandi, now confined at Central Prison, Salem and to quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to produce the detenu before this court and set set him at liberty forthwith.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Seenuvasan

*For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj,
Additional Public Prosecutor*

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by P.N.PRAKASH.J.,]

The petitioner is the wife of the detenu Ashok Kumar. The detenu has been detained by the second respondent by his order in D.O.No.61/2022-C3 dated 15.05.2022, holding him to be a "Drug Offender", as contemplated under Section 2(e) of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982. The said order is under challenge in this Habeas Corpus Petition.



H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

2. We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents. We have also perused the records produced by the Detaining Authority.

3. Though many grounds have been raised in the petition, 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. According to the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner, the sponsoring authority has stated in the Arrest Memo at page No.45 of the Booklet furnished to the detenu, that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the wife of the detenu. However, there is no material to substantiate the service of arrest intimation stated to have been made to the wife of the detenu. Therefore, it is stated that the detenu was deprived of making an effective representation in the absence of furnishing of full particulars by the detaining authority. Hence, it is stated that the Detaining Authority has passed the impugned detention order in total non-application of mind.



H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

4.Per contra, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the arrest of the detenu has been intimated to the wife of the detenu through SMS.

5. However we find that there are no material particulars to substantiate the same. This Court has also taken the similar view in such cases that the detention order cannot be sustained.

6.As evidenced from the document in page No.45 of the Booklet furnished to us, a mere endorsement is made by the authorities to the effect that the arrest has been informed to the wife of the detenu through SMS, but, no materials have been furnished to substantiate that the said intimation was sent through Thapal or Registered post or as per the procedure laid down. Therefore, non-furnishing of details given to the relatives of the detenu would amount to deprivation of the right of the detenu to make an effective representation and the same would vitiate the order of detention and the same cannot be sustained in the eye of law.



H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

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. The impugned detention order is therefore liable to be quashed.

8. In the result, the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed and the order of detention in D.O.No.61/2022-C3 dated 15.05.2022 , passed by the second respondent is set aside. The detenu, viz., Ashokkumar, Son of Senthurapandiyan, son of Perumal, is directed to be released forthwith unless his detention is required in connection with any other case.

(P.N.P., J.) (N.A.V.,J.)
15..12..2022

Index: Yes/No
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H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

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4. The Superintendent of Police,
Vellore.
5. The Inspector of Police,
Katpadi, Vellore District.
6. The Joint Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu,
Public, Law and Order Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 9.
7. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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H.C.P.No.1265 of 2022

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