

14.07.2023
Item no.60.
Court No.01.
S. De
(Allowed)

Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court
at Jalpaiguri

CRM (NDPS) No. 534 of 2023

In Re: An Application for Bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure filed on 11.07.2023 in connection with Rajganj Police Station Case No. 684 of 2022 dated 09.12.2022 under Sections 18/21(c)/22(c)/25/27A/28/29 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

And

In the matter of : Hoineilhing Khongsai & Anr.

.....Petitioners.

Mr. Arnab Saha,
Mr. Sudhindra Das,for the Petitioners.

Mr. Aditi Shankar Chakraborty, Ld. APP,
Mr. Aniruddha Biswas,
.....for the State.

Admittedly, commercial quantity of contraband items was recovered from the possession of the petitioners. However, the petitioners say that the Memo of Arrest is irregular. There is no signature of a member of the family of the accused or a respectable person of the locality against column no.10 of the Memo of Arrest. This is a mandatory requirement as pronounced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **D.K. Basu Vs. State of West Bengal** reported in **AIR 1997 Supreme Court 610**. Section 41B of Cr.P.C. also mandates that Memo of

Arrest shall be witnessed by such a person. This is a gross illegality which entitles the petitioners to bail.

We have seen the material in the case diary including the Arrest Memo. Indeed, column no.10 is blank.

Accordingly, we are constrained to hold that the petitioners have been able to overcome the restriction under Section 37 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. We, therefore, allow the petitioners' prayer for bail also considering that chargesheet has been filed after completion of investigation and that the petitioner in custody since December 2022.

Accordingly, we direct that the petitioners, namely **Hoineilhing Khongsai** and **Nuglminthang Khongsai @ Ngulminthang Khongsai @ Lunminthang Khongsai** shall be released on bail upon furnishing a bond of Rs.20,000/- each with two registered sureties of like amount each, to the satisfaction of the learned Judge, Special Court (under NDPS Act), Jalpaiguri on condition that the present accused petitioners shall appear before the learned Trial Court on each date of substantive hearing and shall not leave the jurisdiction of the learned Trial Court unless such condition has been relaxed by the learned Trial Court.

In the event the petitioners fail to adhere to any of the conditions stipulated above without justifiable cause, the trial

court shall be at liberty to cancel the petitioners' bail in accordance with law without further reference to this Court.

Observations made in this order are tentative and only for the purpose of disposing of this bail application.

The application for bail is, accordingly, allowed.

All parties shall act in terms of server copy of the order downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Partha Sarathi Sen, J.)

(Arijit Banerjee, J.)