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H.C.P.No.140 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 26.06.2023

Coram

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.SUNDAR**
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **R.SAKTHIVEL**

H.C.P.No.140 of 2023

G.Devi

.. Petitioner

VS

- 1.The Addl. Chief Secretary to the Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 9.
- 2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur.
- 4.The Superintendent of Prison,
Central Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai – 66.
- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Uthukottai Police Station,
Thiruvallur District.

.. Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to call for the records in connection with the order of detention passed by the second respondent dated 20.10.2022 in No.48/BCDFGISSSV/2022, the petitioner's son Saravanan @ Madurai Saravanan, male, aged 26 years, S/o.Gurunathan, who is confined at Central Prison II, Puzhal, Chennai and to set aside the same and consequently direct the



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respondents to produce the detenu before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Senthil Vel
for Mr.M.Anand

For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak,
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

[Order of the Court was made by M.SUNDAR, J.]

When the captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' (hereinafter 'HCP' for the sake of convenience and clarity) was listed in the Admission Board on 31.01.2023, this Court made the following order:

"Captioned Habeas Corpus Petition has been filed in this Court on 19.01.2023 inter alia assailing a detention order dated 20.10.2022 bearing reference B.C.D.F.G.I.S.S.S.V No.48 of 2022 made by 'second respondent' [hereinafter 'Detaining Authority' for the sake of convenience and clarity]. To be noted, fifth respondent is the Sponsoring Authority.

2. Mother of the detenu is the petitioner.

3. Mr.V.Muthupandi, learned counsel on record for habeas corpus petitioner is before us. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that ground case qua the detenu is for alleged offences under Section 120 (B), 341, 302 IPC read



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with Section 34 IPC in Crime No.263 of 2022 on the file of Uthukottai Police Station.

4. The aforementioned detention order has been made on the premise that the detenu is a 'Goonda' under Section 2(f) of '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 (Tamil Nadu Act No.14 of 1982)' [hereinafter 'Act 14 of 1982' for the sake of convenience and clarity].

5. The detention order has been assailed inter alia on the ground that there is non-application of mind in passing the impugned detention order as the detenu did not commit any offence prejudicial to the public order.

6. Prima facie case made out for admission. Admit. Issue Rule nisi returnable by four weeks.

7. Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned Additional Public Prosecutor, State of Tamil Nadu accepts notice for all respondents.'

2. The aforementioned order made in the 31.01.2023 Admission listing shall be read as an integral part and parcel of this order which means that the short forms, short references and abbreviations used in the order in the Admission listing shall be used in the instant order also.



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3. There is one adverse case. The ground case which constitutes substantial part of substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.263 of 2022 on the file of Uthukottai Police Station for the alleged offence under Section 302 of IPC, subsequently altered into one under Sections 120(B), 341, 302 r/w 34 IPC. Owing to the nature of the challenge to the impugned detention order, it is not necessary to delve into the factual matrix or be detained further by facts.

4. Mr.S.Senthil Vel, learned counsel representing the counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor for all respondents are before us.

5. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that 'live and proximate link' between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has snapped as date of remand in the ground case is 04.09.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 20.10.2022.

6. Mr.E.Raj Thilak, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected



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and time was consumed for the same. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and nature of ground case, we find that this explanation of learned State Additional Public Prosecutor is unacceptable.

7. We remind ourselves of **Sushanta Kumar Banik's** case [**Sushanta Kumar Banik Vs. State of Tripura & others reported in 2022 LiveLaw (SC) 813 : 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1333**]. To be noted, **Banik** case law arose under 'Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988' [hereinafter 'PIT NDPS Act' for the sake of brevity] in Tirupura, wherein after considering the proposal by the Sponsoring Authority and after noticing the trajectory the matter took, Hon'ble Supreme Court held that the 'live and proximate link between grounds of detention and purpose of detention snapping' point should be examined on a case to case basis. Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in **Banik** case law that this point has two facets. One facet is 'unreasonable delay' and other facet is 'unexplained delay'. We find that the captioned matter falls under latter facet i.e., unexplained delay.



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8. To be noted, **Banik** case has been respectfully followed by this Court in **Gomathi Vs.The Principal Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/334, Sadik Basha Yusuf Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023/MHC/733, Sangeetha Vs. The Secretary to the Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1110, N.Anitha Vs. The Secretary to Government and others** reported vide Neutral Citation of Madras High Court being **2023:MHC:1159** and a series of other orders in HCP cases.

9. Before concluding, we also remind ourselves that preventive detention is not a punishment and HCP is a high prerogative writ.

10. Ergo, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned detention order dated 20.10.2022 bearing reference BCDFGISSSV No.48/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Saravanan @ Madurai Saravanan, aged 26 years, son of Thiru.Gurunathan, is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, if not



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required in connection with any other case / cases. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.) (R.S.V.,J.)
26.06.2023

Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation : Yes/No
mmi

P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison - II Puzhal, Chennai.

To

- 1.The Addl. Chief Secretary to the Government,
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department,
Secretariat, Chennai – 9.
- 2.The District Magistrate and District Collector,
Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur.
- 3.The Superintendent of Police,
Thiruvallur District, Thiruvallur.
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- 5.The Inspector of Police,
Uthukottai Police Station,
Thiruvallur District.
- 6.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.



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R.SAKTHIVEL, J.,**

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