



HCP.No.1456/2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 22.11.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR . JUSTICE S.S.SUNDAR

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE SUNDER MOHAN

H.C.P.No.1456/2023

Jebaselvi

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Petitioner

Versus

1.The Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Home, Prohibition and Excise Department
Fort St George, Chennai 600 009.

2.The District Collector & District Magistrate
Nagapattinam District, Nagapattinam.

3.The Superintendent of Police
Nagapattinam District.

4.The Superintendent
Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli.

5.The Circle Inspector of Police
Kilvelur Circle Police Station
Nagapattinam District.

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Respondents



HCP.No.1456/2023

Prayer:- Habeas Corpus Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for a Writ of Habeas Corpus calling for the records relating to the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent pertaining to the order made in COC No.28/2023 dated 22.06.2023 in detain the detenu under 2[b] of Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982, as a Bootlegger and quash the same and direct the respondent to produce the detenu Charles son of Thavamani aged about 27 years who is detained at Central Prison, Tiruchirappalli before this Court and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.G.Nirmal Krishnan
For Respondents : Mr.E.Raj Thilak
Additional Public Prosecutor
assisted by Mr.Aravind.C

ORDER

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

- (1)The petitioner, wife of the detenu has come forward with this petition challenging the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 22.06.2023 slapped on her husband, branding him as "Bootlegger" under the Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 1982].
- (2)Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents.
- (3)Though several points have been raised by the petitioner, the learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that bail orders in the similar cases



HCP.No.1456/2023

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relied on by the Detaining Authority to arrive at the subjective satisfaction that the detenu is likely to be released on bail in the Ground Case, have been furnished in English language and has not been translated in the vernacular language. Hence, it is stated that the detention order is liable to be quashed on the ground that the detenu is deprived of his right to make effective representation against the detention order to the authorities concerned.

(4) This Court, upon examination of the records, is unable to discard the contention of the learned counsel for the petitioner. A perusal of pages No.101 and 106 of the Booklet would reveal that the English version of the similar case bail orders in Cr.MP.No.3348/2021 and Cr.MP.No.3347/2021 has not been translated in the vernacular language. This non furnishing of the vital document in vernacular language would deprive the detenu of his right of making effective representation to the authorities against the order of detention.

(5) In this context, it is useful to refer to the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Powanammal Vs. State of Tamil Nadu*** reported in ***(1999) 2 SCC 413***. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had occasion to deal



HCP.No.1456/2023

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with similar situation where in the Grounds of Detention referred to an order remanding the detenu therein to judicial custody was in English language. Since the tamil version of the document was not supplied to the detenue therein, a specific issue was raised by the Hon'ble Supreme Court whether failure to supply tamil version of the remand order passed in English, a language not known to the detenu therein, would vitiate the detenu's further detention. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, after discussing the safeguards embodied in Article 22[5] of the Constitution, observed that the detenu should be afforded an opportunity of making representation effectively against the Detention Order and that, the failure to supply every material in the language which can be understood by the detenu, is imperative. In the said context, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held in Paragraphs 9 and 16 as follows:

"9.However, this Court has maintained a distinction between a document which has been relied upon by the detaining authority in the grounds of detention and a document which finds a mere reference in the grounds of detention. Whereas the non-supply of



HCP.No.1456/2023

a copy of the document relied upon in the grounds of detention has been held to be fatal to continued detention, the detenu need not show that any prejudice is caused to him. This is because the non-supply of such a document would amount to denial of the right of being communicated the grounds and of being afforded the opportunity of making an effective representation against the order. But it would not be so where the document merely finds a reference in the order of detention or among the grounds thereof. In such a case, the detenu's complaint of non-supply of document has to be supported by prejudice caused to him in making an effective representation. What applies to a document would equally apply to furnishing a translated copy of the document in the language known to and understood by the detenu, should the document be in a different language.

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16. *For the above reasons, in our view, the non-supply of the Tamil version of the English document, on the facts and in the circumstances, renders her continued detention illegal. We, therefore, direct that the detenue be set free forthwith unless she is required*



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HCP.No.1456/2023

to be detained in any other case. The appeal is accordingly allowed."

(6) In view of the ratio laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in view of the aforesaid facts, this Court is of the view that the detention order is liable to be quashed.

(7) Accordingly, the detention order passed by the 2nd respondent dated 22.06.2023 in COC.No.28/2023 is hereby set aside and the Habeas Corpus Petition is allowed. The detenu is directed to be set at liberty forthwith unless he is required in connection with any other case.

[SSSRJ] [SMJ]
22.11.2023

AP
Internet : Yes



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HCP.No.1456/2023

To

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- 6.The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras.



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HCP.No.1456/2023

S.S.SUNDAR, J.,
AND
SUNDER MOHAN, J.,

AP

H.C.P.No.1456/2023

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