



W.P.No.24012 of 2023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 16.08.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR

and

THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE R.SAKTHIVEL

W.P.No.24012 of 2023

S.Karumeniammal
Wife of Sankarapandi

..

Petitioner
Mother of the detenu

Vs.

The State represented by its

1. The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu
Home Department
Fort St.George
Chennai – 600 009

2. The Deputy Inspector General of Police
Madurai Range
Madurai – 625 001

3. The Superintendent
Central Prison
Palayamkottai – 627 007

.. Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of certiorarified mandamus to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order No.1323/Tha.ku.2/2023 dated 10.03.2023

Page Nos.1/13



WP.No.24012 of 2023

issued by the third respondent and quash the same and consequently direct the 1st respondent to grant leave for one month without escort to the detenu Palani, son of Sankarapandi, aged about 47 years, life convict prisoner, bearing Convict No.4296, detained at Central Prison, Palayamkottai.

For Petitioner : Dr.S.Manoharan

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

ORDER

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

This order will now dispose of the captioned writ petition.

2. Factual matrix in a nutshell is that petitioner's son Thiru.Palani, son of Thiru. Sankarapandi, is a life convict (Convict No.4296) now lodged in Central Prison, Palayamkottai having been convicted and sentenced vide S.C.No.61 of 1999 in Crime No.150 of 1996 on the file of II Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Tirunelveli; that the writ petitioner's request for 28 days ordinary leave was negatived in and by an 'order signed by the third respondent on 10.03.2023 bearing reference No.1323/தஞ.2/2023' [hereinafter 'impugned order' for the sake of



WP.No.24012 of 2023

convenience and clarity]; that captioned writ petition has been filed in this

WEB COURT on 09.08.2023 assailing the impugned order and seeking 28 days ordinary leave for the convict prisoner i.e., petitioner's son.

3. Dr.S.Manoharan, learned counsel adverting to the impugned order submitted that only ground on which impugned order has been made is Rule 22 of 'Tamil Nadu Suspension of Sentence Rules, 1982' [hereinafter 'said Rules' for the sake of convenience and clarity] and G.O.No.205 dated 25.04.2022 i.e., the ground that one year has not elapsed since 20 days ordinary leave was last availed by the convict prisoner [21.09.2023 at 10.30 am to 10.10.2023 at 05.30 pm].

4. Issue notice.

5. Mr.E.Raj Thilak, accepted notice for all three respondents and submitted on instructions that Rule 22 of said Rules captioned '*Eligibility for ordinary leave*' and more particularly sub-rule (3) thereat says that a prisoner shall be granted a second or subsequent spell of ordinary leave after completion of one year of imprisonment from the date on which he returned from the last ordinary leave. Adverting to this sub-rule (3) of Rule 22 (to be



WP.No.24012 of 2023

noted, only Rule 22 has been mentioned in the impugned order but learned Prosecutor drew our attention to sub-rule (3) thereat), it was submitted that convict prisoner returned on 10.10.2022 at 05.30pm (after availing leave on the last occasion) and therefore, one year therefrom will elapse only after 1 ½ months from today.

6. In response to the aforementioned submission, learned counsel for writ petitioner submitted by way of reply that the aforementioned earlier spell of 20 days was not granted by the Executive arm i.e., prison authorities but was granted by a Hon'ble Division Bench in the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court vide order dated 16.09.2022 made in W.P (MD) No.5749 of 2022.

7. The aforementioned order has not been annexed in the typed-set of papers. Therefore, this Court ferreted out the same from the official website and a scanned reproduction of the same is as follows:



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WP.No.24012 of 2023



WP(MD)No 5749 of 2022

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 16.09.2022

CORAM

The Honourable Mrs. Justice JNISHA BANU
and
The Honourable Mr. Justice N.ANAND VENKATESH

WP(MD)No 5749 of 2022

S Karumuriannur

... Petitioner

Vs

The State represented by its

1. The Deputy Inspector General of Prison,
Madurai Range,
Madurai.

2. The Superintendent
Central Prison
Palayamkottai 627 007.

... Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, to call for the records pertaining to the impugned order No.371/Vu.Tha2/2022 dated 01.02.2022 issued by the 1st respondent and quash the same and consequently direct the respondents to grant leave for one month without escort to the detenu Palani, S/o Sankarapandi, aged about 47 years, life convict prisoner, bearing convict No 4296 detained at Central Prison, Palayamkottai.

Page 1 of 7

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WP.No.24012 of 2023



WP(MD)No.5749 of 2022

For Petitioner : Mr.R.Narayanan
For Respondents : Mr.A.Thiruvadikumar
Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

J. NISHABANU,J.
and
N. ANAND VENKATESH,J.

This writ petition has been filed challenging the impugned order dated 01.02.2022 passed by the first respondent rejecting the request made by the petitioner seeking for the ordinary leave of her son, who is undergoing life imprisonment for an offence committed under Section 302 IPC in Central Prison, Palayamkottai.

2.The case of the petitioner is that her son was convicted and sentenced to undergo life imprisonment. The petitioner is said to be 81 years old and she has some health ailments. Since the petitioner is in the evening of her life, she wants to be with her son for sometime. Hence, the petitioner made a representation to the respondents requesting for granting ordinary leave to her son. Since the same was rejected, the present writ

Page 2 of 7

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



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WP.No.24012 of 2023



WP(MD)No.5749 of 2022

petition has been filed before this Court.

3.The first respondent has filed a counter affidavit. The main objection that has been stated in the counter affidavit is that the recommendation of the Superintendent of Prison and the report of the Probation Officer was considered and thereafter a decision was taken not to grant leave to the detenu. Even on an earlier occasion, a similar request was made and it was rejected and it was also confirmed by this Court in W.P. (MD) No.1667 of 2022, by order dated 21.02.2022.

4.The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the report of the Superintendent of Prisons and the Probation Officer is not in favour of the detenu. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor further submitted that the detenu was having intimacy with yet another woman and if he is let out, there is a chance of some communal tension. That apart, there was yet another murder case against the detenu. In view of the same, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that there is no ground to interfere with the impugned order passed by the first respondent.

Page 3 of 7

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



WP.No.24012 of 2023

WEB COPY



WP(MD)No 5749 of 2022



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5. In the considered view of this Court, Rule 20 of the Tamil Nadu Suspension of Sentence Rules, 1982 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules') deals with grounds on which ordinary leave can be granted to a prisoner. In the present case, the mother of the detenu is aged about 81 years and she is facing health related ailments. That apart, she has not met her son for more than four years and therefore, she wants to be with the detenu for sometime. This reason will fall within the scope of Rule 20 of the Rules. The detenu does not face any disqualification as provided under Rule 21 of the Rules. Insofar as the other case of murder, which was pointed by the learned Additional Public Prosecutor, the detenu has been acquitted from the said case in S.C.No.84 of 2007 through judgment dated 10.10.2014. There has been no adverse reports against the detenu and the mere apprehension that has been raised by the Superintendent of Prisons and the Probation Officer cannot be a ground to reject the request made for granting ordinary leave to the detenu. This Court is convinced with the request made by the petitioner and hence, leave can be granted to the detenu by imposing stringent conditions.

Page 4 of 7

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>



WP.No.24012 of 2023

WEB COPY



WP.(MD)No.5749 of 2022



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6. In view of the above discussion, the impugned order of the first respondent dated 01.02.2022 is hereby set aside. There shall be a direction to the first respondent to grant ordinary leave to the detenu for a period of 20 days, ie., from 21.09.2022 at 10.30 a.m. to 10.10.2022 upto 5.30 p.m., without escort, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The detenu shall stay at Harikesavanallur Village, Cheranmahadevi, Tirunelveli District and he shall not leave the place during the period of his stay with his mother;

(b) The detenu shall report before the Mukkoodal Police Station, Tirunelveli District, daily at 5.30 p.m. during the entire period of ordinary leave; and

(c) The detenu shall surrender before the second respondent on 10.10.2022 by 5.30 p.m.

7. This writ petition is allowed in the above terms.

(J.N.B.,J.) (N.A.V.,J.)
16.09.2022

Index : Yes/No
Internet : Yes
RR

Page 5 of 7

<https://www.mhc.tn.gov.in/judis>

8. From the submissions made by both sides, it comes to light that convict prisoner is entitled to 28 days leave and only impediment is one year

Page Nos.9/13



WP.No.24012 of 2023

from the date on which he returned (returned after earlier spell of 20 days leave) had not elapsed and hence sub-rule (3) of Rule 22 of said Rules is the only impediment. In this view of the matter, considering that one year would be elapsing in less than eight weeks from today and also taking into account the undisputed position that grounds on which leave was granted by the other Hon'ble Division Bench continues to exist / enure in favour of the convict prisoner's leave plea, we deem it appropriate to interfere with the impugned order, set aside the same and grant 28 days ordinary leave to the convict prisoner on the same conditions (with minor adaptations) on which earlier 20 days leave was granted by the other Hon'ble Division Bench.

9. In the light of the narrative, discussion and dispositive reasoning, the following order is passed:

- i) impugned order signed on 10.03.2023 by the third respondent bearing reference No.1323/தஞ.2/2023 is set aside;
- ii) 28 days ordinary leave is granted to the convict prisoner from 21.08.2023 (Monday) 10.30am to 18.09.2023 (Monday) 05.30pm;
- iii) Convict prisoner shall stay at Arikesavanallur Village,



WP.No.24012 of 2023

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Cheranmahadevi Village, Tirunelveli District and petitioner shall not move out of this jurisdiction during this period without intimating the jurisdictional police station;

iv) Convict prisoner shall go over to the jurisdictional police station i.e., Mukkoodal Police Station, Tirunelveli District, every day at 05.30pm and sign in the Register there during the entire period of 28 days;

v) Convict prisoner need not sign i.e., adhere to the above condition on 21.08.2023 and 18.09.2023 as those are the dates on which leave will commence and end;

vi) Convict prisoner shall surrender in the office of the third respondent on 18.09.2023 (Monday) by dusk i.e., by 05.30pm;

Captioned writ petition disposed of in the aforesaid manner.

(M.S.,J.)

(R.S.V.,J.)

16.08.2023

gpa

P.S: Though the captioned writ petition is disposed of, Registry shall list the captioned writ petition under the cause list caption 'FOR FILING COMPLIANCE REPORT' on 22.09.2023.

Page Nos.11/13



WP.No.24012 of 2023

To

WEB COPY

11. The Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu
Home Department
Fort St.George
Chennai – 600 009
2. The Deputy Inspector General of Police
Madurai Range
Madurai – 625 001
3. The Superintendent
Central Prison
Palayamkottai – 627 007
4. The Public Prosecutor
High Court, Madras.



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WP.No.24012 of 2023

M.SUNDAR, J.,
and
R.SAKTHIVEL, J.,

gpa

W.P.No.24012 of 2023

16.08.2023

Page Nos.13/13