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H.C.P.No.2104 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 06.04.2023

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE M.SUNDAR
and

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE D.NAGARJUN

H.C.P.No.2104 of 2022

Latha
Wife of Balasundaram

... Petitioner/
Mother of detenu

Vs.

1. State of Tamil Nadu represented by
The Secretary to Government
Department of Home, Prohibition and Excise
Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai
2. The Commissioner of Police
Salem City
3. Superintendent of Police
Central Prison Salem
Salem
4. Inspector of Police
Annadhanapatty Police Station
Salem

... Respondents

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Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus calling for the records in C.M.P.No.124/Goonda/Salem City/2022 passed by the second respondent on 26.09.2022 on the file of the 2nd respondent and quash the same as illegal and consequently direct the respondent to produce petitioner son Ranjithkumar, son of Balasundaram, aged about 25 years, before this Court, now detained in Central Prison, Salem and set him at liberty.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Elumalai

For Respondents : Mr.R.Muniyapparaj
Additional Public Prosecutor
Assisted by
Mr.Sylvester John
Advocate

ORDER

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

Captioned 'Habeas Corpus Petition' ['HCP' for the sake of brevity] has been filed by mother of detenu assailing a 'preventive detention order dated 26.09.2022 bearing reference C.M.P.No.124/Goonda/Salem City/2022' [hereinafter 'impugned detention order' for the sake of convenience and brevity]. To be noted, fourth respondent is the sponsoring authority and second respondent is the detaining authority as impugned detention order has been made by second respondent.



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2. Impugned detention order has been made under '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] on the premise that the detenu is a 'Goonda' within the meaning of Section 2(f) of Act 14 of 1982.

3. There is one adverse case. The solitary case which is the sole substratum of the impugned detention order is Crime No.378 of 2022 on the file of Annadanapatty Police Station for alleged offences under Sections 395 read with 397, 506(ii) of 'Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Act 45 of 1860)' ['IPC' for brevity] and Section 3(i) of Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act, 1992. 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.A.Elumalai, learned counsel on record for petitioner and Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, assisted by Mr.Sylvester John, Advocate, for all respondents are before us.



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5. Learned counsel for petitioner submits that 'live and proximate link' between the grounds of detention and purpose of detention has snapped as petitioner was arrested on 10.08.2022 but the impugned detention order has been made only on 26.09.2022.

6. Mr.R.Muniyapparaj, learned State Additional Public Prosecutor, submits to the contrary by saying that materials had to be collected /collated and time was consumed in this exercise. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and nature of ground case, we find that this explanation of learned 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



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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.

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.



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

10. Apropos, the sequitur is, captioned HCP is allowed. Impugned detention order dated 26.09.2022 bearing reference C.M.P.No.124/Goonda/Salem City/2022 made by the second respondent is set aside and the detenu Thiru.Ranjithkumar, aged 25 years, son of Thiru.Balasundaram is directed to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in connection with any other case / cases. There shall be no order as to costs.

(M.S.,J.)

(D.N.R.,J.)

06.04.2023

Index : Yes

Speaking

Neutral Citation : Yes

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P.S: Registry to forthwith communicate this order to Jail authorities in Central Prison, Salem.



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To

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1. The Secretary to Government
Department of Home, Prohibition and Excise
Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai
2. The Commissioner of Police
Salem City
3. Superintendent of Police
Central Prison Salem
Salem
4. Inspector of Police
Annadhanapatty Police Station
Salem
5. The Public Prosecutor
Madras High Court, Chennai



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M.SUNDAR, J.,
and
Dr.D.NAGARJUN, J.,

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