



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 09-03-2026

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THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE N. ANAND VENKATESH

AND

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.DHANABAL

CRL MP(MD) NO. 20745 of 2025 in CrI.A(MD) No.1390 of 2025

1. Manikandan
S/o.Koothan
D.No.25/4 Gandhinagar
5th Ward Oddanchathram
Dindigul District.

Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. State Of Tamilnadu Rep By
Inspector Of Police,
Oddanchatram Police Station
Dindigul District.
(In Cr. No.47/2014)

Respondent(s)

For Petitioner(s): Mr.Gopalakrishna Lakshmana Raju Senior counsel
for M/s.S.Murugadass

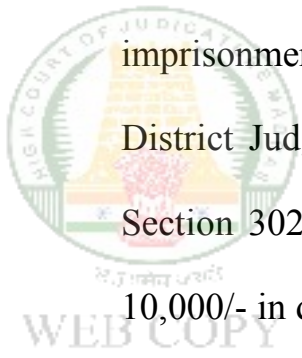
For Respondent(s): Mr.E.Antony Sahaya Prabahar
Addl. Public Prosecutor

Prayer:To suspend the sentence imposed on the petitioner / Appellant / Accused No.2 in SC No.48/2019 dated 25.11.2025 on the file of the Additional District Judge (FTC), Palani, and enlarge him on bail till the disposal of the Appeal.

ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by N.Anand Venkatesh J.)

This petition has been filed by A2 seeking suspension of substantive sentence of



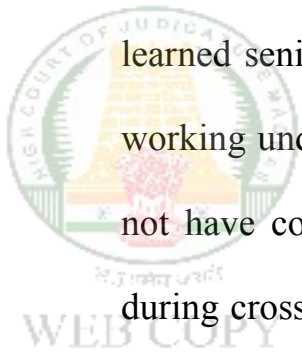
imprisonment imposed in S.C. No. 48 of 2019 dated 25.11.2025 on the file of the petitioner. The petitioner is a District Judge (Fast Track Court), Palani, Dindigul District. He has been convicted under Section 302 IPC and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for life and to pay a fine of Rs. 10,000/- in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six months.

2. Heard the learned Senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent.

3. The case of the prosecution is that on 18.02.2014 at about 1.30 p.m., the accused persons are said to have threatened the deceased with dire consequences and had stabbed him with MO1 and MO2. The deceased succumbed to the injuries and based on the complaint given by PW1, who is the wife of the deceased, FIR came to be registered (Ex.P12) by PW15. There are totally two accused persons in this case and the petitioner was arrayed as A2.

4. The trial Court, on considering the facts and circumstances of the case and mainly relying upon the evidence of PW1, who is the wife of the deceased and PW14, who is the postmortem Doctor, came to a conclusion that the prosecution has proved the case beyond reasonable doubts and proceeded to convict the petitioner as stated supra.

5. The learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner submitted that even though the prosecution had examined 17 eyewitnesses, except PW1, no other witness supported the case of the prosecution. The learned Senior counsel further submitted that PW1 could not have been present at the scene of crime and to substantiate the same, the

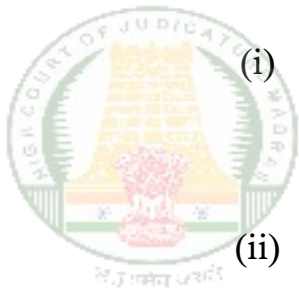


learned senior counsel read the deposition of PW1. He submitted that PW1 ac was working under a Mason and she had gone for work on the date of occurrence and she could not have come to the scene of crime before 2 pm., even as per her own statement made during cross-examination. Whereas, she claims to have been present in the scene of crime at 12 noon. The learned counsel submitted that the trial Court had convicted and sentenced the petitioner only based on the evidence of PW1, which, according to the trial Court, was corroborated by the evidence of PW14.

6. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor submitted that the trial Court has properly appreciated the evidence and has convicted and sentenced the petitioner. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor, on further instructions, submitted that there are no previous cases against the petitioner.

7. Taking into consideration the grounds raised in the appeal and also considering the fact that the petitioner is undergoing incarceration from November 2025 and that important grounds are made out, which have to be considered on merits and it will take some more time for this Court to hear the criminal appeal finally, this Court is inclined to suspend the substantive sentence of imprisonment alone pending appeal.

8. In view of the above, the substantive sentence imposed by the Court below in S.C.No.48 of 2019 dated 25.11.2025 is suspended and the petitioner is enlarged on bail subject to the following conditions:



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- (i) The petitioner shall execute a bond for a sum of Rs.25,000/-, with two sureties, of whom, one should be a blood relative, each for a like sum, to the satisfaction of the Additional District Court, (FTC) Palani, Dindigul District;
- (ii) The sureties shall affix their photographs and Left Thumb Impression in the surety bond and the trial Court may obtain a copy of their Aadhar card or Bank pass Book to ensure their identity; and
- (iii) The petitioner shall appear before the Additional District Judge, FTC, Palani, every day at 10.30 a.m., until further orders and if he is not able to appear before the trial Court on any day, he shall make arrangements to file an application under Section 317 Cr.P.C. and shall appear before the trial Court on any other day in lieu of the date of his absence, as directed by the trial Court.

(N.ANAND VENKATESH J.) (P.DHANABAL J.)
09-03-2026

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To

1. The Inspector Of Police,
Oddanchatram Police Station
Dindigul District.

2.The Additional Public Prosecutor,

Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.