IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA EXTRA-ORDINARY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. 214 OF 2020 (PIL) (Under Article 32 of the Constitution of India) PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

IN THE MATTER OF:

DR. SUBHASH VIJAYRAN

... PETITIONER

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

... RESPONDENTS

WITH

I.A. NO. 73488 OF 2020

(Application for exemption from filing duly signed and attested/ notarized Affidavit)

AND

I.A. NO. 73489 OF 2020

(Application for permission to appear and argue the matter In-Person)

PAPER- BOOK FOR INDEX: KINDLY SEE INSIDE

Drafted & E-filed on 27.07.2020 as Provisional Application No. 3948 of 2020 Entered on 28.07.2020 as Diary No. 15865 of 2020 Registered as W.P. (Cr.). 214 of 2020 on 06.08.2020

DRAFTED AND FILED BY:

DR. SUBHASH VIJAYRAN (ADVOCATE) (PETITIONER-IN-PERSON)

INDEX

(ii) Listing Proforma Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings Writ Proforma	Part I (Contents of Paper Book) (iii) A1–A2	Part II (Contents of file alone) (iv) A1–A2 A-3 A-4	(v)
Listing Proforma Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings	of Paper Book) (iii)	of file alone) (iv) A1–A2 A-3	(v)
Listing Proforma Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings	Book) (iii)	alone) (iv) A1–A2 A-3	(v)
Listing Proforma Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings	(iii)	(iv) A1–A2 A-3	(v)
Listing Proforma Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings		A1–A2 A-3	(v)
Cover Page of Paper Book Index of Record of Proceedings	A1–A2	A-3	
Book Index of Record of Proceedings			
Proceedings		A-4	
Writ Proforma			
		A-5	
Defect List		A-6	
Note Sheet		NS1 –	
Synopsis and List of Dates	B – D		
Writ Petition (PIL) with Affidavit of Petitioner	1–11		
Annexure: P-1	12–13		
True Copy of order dated 23.07.2020 of this Hon'ble Court passed in SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020.			
Annexure: P-2	14		
	Defect List Note Sheet Synopsis and List of Dates Writ Petition (PIL) with Affidavit of Petitioner <u>Annexure: P-1</u> True Copy of order dated 23.07.2020 of this Hon'ble Court passed in SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020. <u>Annexure: P-2</u> Screenshots of tweets dated 25.07.2020, poste by Mr. P. Chidambaram	Defect ListNote SheetSynopsis and List of DatesB - DWrit Petition (PIL) with Affidavit of Petitioner1-11Annexure: P-112-13True Copy of order dated 23.07.2020 of this Hon'ble Court passed in SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020.14Annexure: P-214Screenshots of tweets dated 25.07.2020, posted by Mr. P. Chidambaram,14	Defect ListA-6Note SheetNS1 –Synopsis and List of DatesB – DWrit Petition (PIL) with Affidavit of Petitioner1–11Annexure: P-112–13True Copy of order dated 23.07.2020 of this Hon'ble Court passed in SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020.14Annexure: P-214Screenshots of tweets dated 25.07.2020, posted by Mr. P. Chidambaram,14

11.	Annexure: P-3 Some replies to the above tweet dated 25.07.2020.	15–19		
12.	I.A. Noof 2020:Applicationforexemption from filingduly signed and attested/notarized Affidavit.	20–21		
13.	I.A. No of 2020:Applicationforpermission to appear andargue the matter In-Person.	22–23		
14.	Filing Memo		24	
15.	Memo of Appearance		25	
16.	Photo I-D proof		26	

SYNOPSIS

This Hon'ble Court, of lately, has become a punching bag of, interalia, some learned Advocates. They first approach this court, consume tens and hundreds of hours of the court's precious time, and if not satisfied with the outcome, go to the media criticizing and directly/ indirectly imputing motives on the Hon'ble Judges. Though these acts are prima facie criminal contempts; not all end up in contempt proceedings. Because if they would, this court would be taking up nothing but contempt matters.

The courts grant us, Advocates, extra leeway and liberty to freely speak our minds because we are men of law. But being a lawman – and not a layman – is a great responsibility. We have a duty towards society. We cannot go on cutting roots of the very system that nourishes us and misuse our liberty for our selfish ends.

Criticizing the judgments on points of law is healthy criticism – a sign of mature democracy – and helps develop the law. But criticizing the court/ judges in a way that either impute motives on the judges or project them as biased, is not healthy. The illeffect is particularly exponential when a learned Advocate – more so one linked with a political party – does it.

In this petition, I am focusing on recent tweets by senior Advocate and Congress leader, Mr. P. Chidambaram, to show how apparently innocuous but clever tweets in a pending matter can impute motives and bias on the judges.

<u>The million dollar question is</u>: Till what time is this Hon'ble Court going to tolerate this unhealthy practice of maligning the courts and its Judges by the disgruntled and those with ulterior motives?

Β

21.07.2020	After a prolonged hearing spanning many days; on 21.07.2020, a division bench of Rajasthan High Court in CWP No. 7451 of 2020, directed the Speaker of Rajasthan Legislative assembly not to proceed with the Disqualification Notices under 10 th Schedule of the Constitution issued against the petitioners of the WPC, till next date of hearing i.e. 24.07.2020.
23.07.2020	Aggrieved, the Ld. Speaker preferred SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020 before this Hon'ble Court, seeking stay of the order and proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court. On 23.07.2020, this Hon'ble Court, after a hearing spanning over an hour, ordered that the matter required prolonged hearing to decide the question of jurisdiction. Also this court refused to stay the proceedings before the High Court. True Copy of the 23.07.2020 order is annexed as <u>Annexure: P-1 (page- 12 to 13)</u> .
24.07.2020	The Hon'ble High Court extended the status quo on Speaker's Disqualification Notices.
25.07.2020 & 26.07.2020	On 25.07.2020, Congress leader and Senior Advocate Mr. P. Chidambaram, posted the following apparently innocuous tweets: "To the average citizen who is mystified by the orders of the HC and SC, the following passage in

simple English should be easy to understand.
In 1992, the SC ruled: "Having regard to the constitutional scheme in the Tenth Schedule, judicial review should not cover any stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speakers/Chairmen; and no quiatimet actions are permissible"
Those words are simple and clear enough. That statement of the law by 5 judges was binding on all courts, HC or SC.
Now, dear average citizen, you be the judge."
News regarding these tweets was widely carried
by all leading Newspapers and media houses.
Screenshots of the above tweets dated 25.07.2020
are annexed herewith as <u>Annexure: P-2 (page-14)</u> .
Since I am before a court of law, I would not go into
politics. Suffice it is to say: to an average sane
citizen who keeps himself updated with recent
events – these apparently innocuous tweets impute
that the judges of the Supreme Court and the High
Court hearing the matter are puppets of the present
Government at the Centre and pass orders that
please the Central Government.
This imputation can easily be appreciated by going
through some of the replies dated 25/26.07.2020 to
the above-mentioned tweets, annexed herewith as
Annexure: P-3 (page 15 to 19).
This PIL e-filed before this Hon'ble Court.

D

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

EXTRA-ORDINARY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) NO. _____ OF 2020 (PIL)

(Under Article 32 of the Constitution of India) PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

IN THE MATTER OF:

DR. SUBHASH VIJAYRAN (ADVOCATE)

Aged around 38 years, son of Smt. Rampyari & Sh. Jaipal Singh, Occupation: Advocate [BCD Enrollment No- D/6633/2019], H.No-105, Village Nithari, P.O. Sultanpuri, New Delhi-110086 E-mail: drsubhashvijayran@gmail.com Mobiles: 8920086150, 8285711205 ...PETITIONER

VERSUS

1. UNION OF INDIA,

Through its Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice, Room No. 405-A, A Wing, 4th Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 Ph: 011 – 23384617, 23387553; E-mail: <u>gn.raju@nic.in</u> ... RESPONDENT NO-1

2. SUPREME COURT OF INDIA,

Through its Secretary General, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110002 Ph: 011-23388922-24, 23388942; FAX: 011-23381508, E-mail: <u>supremecourt@nic.in</u>

... RESPONDENT NO-2

.....

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT VIOLATED:

ARTICLE-19 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

.....

Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India and his Associate Justices of The Supreme Court of India. The Writ Petition of the Petitioner above-named <u>MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:</u>

- 1. This is a Writ Petition in Public Interest under Article 32 read with Article 19, 129 & 142 of the Constitution of India, seeking writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ or order:
 - A. Declaring that there is no freedom of speech and expression vis-à-vis pending matters before courts of law, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.
 - B. Declaring that there is no freedom of speech and expression vis-à-vis final judgments, orders or decrees of courts of law, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings, and healthy criticism of the law applied by the courts in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.
- 2. <u>Antecedents of the Petitioner:</u>
 - A. I am an Advocate by profession enrolled with Bar Council of Delhi. My details are:
 - i. Bar Council of Delhi Enrollment No.: D/6633/2019
 - ii. PAN No:
 - iii. Aadhar No:

То

- iv. Voter I.D. Card No:
- v. Driving License No:
- vi. Passport No:
- vii. Annual Income:
- B. I am filing this petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India as Public Interest Litigation [PIL] in the interest of general public and have no personal interest in the same.
- C. I am filing this petition on my own and not at the instance of someone else. The litigation costs, including travelling expenses, are being borne by me. As of now, due to lockdown, there are no travelling expenses, as I am able to file it sitting at my home.
- D. In the prevailing circumstances of COVID-19 pandemic, I seek exemption from filing duly signed, affirmed and attested/ notarized affidavits. I undertake that upon normal functioning of this court, I shall file the same at the earliest. I have also filed an appropriate application in this regard with this petition.
- E. I give my consent for the matter to be taken up through video-conferencing mode. I shall prefer to link to the Hon'ble Bench by video-conferencing through my own desktop/ laptop/ mobile phone. In case of any technical glitch in Video-Conferencing, I consent for teleconferencing by WhatsApp Video call on any of my WhatsApp numbers i.e. 8920086150 or 8285711205.

3

3. FACTS CONSTITUTING THE CAUSE OF ACTION:

- A. This Hon'ble Court, of lately, has become a punching bag of, inter-alia, some learned Advocates. They first approach this court, consume tens and hundreds of hours of the court's precious time, and if not satisfied with the outcome, go to the media criticizing and directly/ indirectly imputing motives on the Hon'ble Judges. Though these acts are prima facie criminal contempts; not all end up in contempt proceedings. Because if they would, this court would be taking up nothing but contempt matters.
- B. The courts grant us Advocates extra leeway and liberty to freely speak our minds because we are men of law. But being a lawman – and not a layman – is a great responsibility. We have a duty towards society. We cannot cut roots of the very system that nourishes us and misuse our liberty for our selfish ends.
- C. Criticizing the judgments on points of law is healthy criticism a sign of mature democracy and helps develop the law. But criticizing the court/ judges in a way that either impute motives on the judges or project them as biased, is not healthy. The ill-effect is particularly exponential when a learned Advocate more so one linked with a political party does it.
- D. In this petition, I am focusing on recent tweets by senior Advocate and Congress leader, Mr. P. Chidambaram, to show how apparently innocuous but clever tweets in a

pending matter can impute motives and bias on the judges.

EVENTS LEADING TO THE 25.07.2020 TWEETS BY LD. SENIOR ADVOCATE MR. P. CHIDAMBRAM:

- E. After a prolonged hearing spanning many days; on 21.07.2020, a division bench of Rajasthan High Court in CWP No. 7451 of 2020, directed the Speaker of Rajasthan Legislative assembly not to proceed with the Disqualification Notices under 10th Schedule of the Constitution issued against the petitioners of the WPC, till the next date of hearing i.e. 24.07.2020.
- F. Aggrieved, the Ld. Speaker preferred SLP(C) No. 8778 of 2020 before this Hon'ble Court, seeking stay of the order and proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court.
- G. On 23.07.2020, this Hon'ble Court, after a hearing spanning over an hour, ordered that the matter required prolonged hearing to decide the question of jurisdiction. Also this court refused to stay the proceedings before the High Court.
- H. True Copy of the 23.07.2020 order is annexed herewith as <u>Annexure: P-1 (page-12 to 13)</u>.
- I. On 24.07.2020, the Hon'ble High Court extended the status quo on Speaker's Disqualification Notices.
- J. On 25.07.2020, Congress leader and Senior Advocate P. Chidambaram, posted the following apparently innocuous tweets:

"To the average citizen who is mystified by the orders of the HC and SC, the following passage in simple English should be easy to understand.

In 1992, the SC ruled: "Having regard to the constitutional scheme in the Tenth Schedule, judicial review should not cover any stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speakers/Chairmen; and no quia timet actions are permissible"

Those words are simple and clear enough. That statement of the law by 5 judges was binding on all courts, HC or SC. Now, dear average citizen, you be the judge."

- K. News regarding these tweets was widely carried by all leading Newspapers and media houses.
- L. Screenshots of the above tweets are annexed herewith as <u>Annexure: P-2 (page-14)</u>.
- M. Since I am before a court of law, I would not go into politics. Suffice it is to say: to an average sane citizen who keeps himself updated with recent events these apparently innocuous tweets impute that the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court hearing the matter are puppets of the present Government at the Centre and pass orders that please the Central Government.
- N. This imputation can easily be appreciated by going through some of the replies to the above-mentioned tweets, annexed as <u>Annexure: P-3 (page 15 to 19)</u>.
- O. <u>The million dollar question is</u>: Till what time is this Hon'ble Court going to tolerate this unhealthy practice of

maligning the courts and its Judges by the disgruntled and those with ulterior motives?

- 4. Source of information:
 - A. (1) News Reports (2) Twitter feeds. (3) Orders of this Hon'ble Court.
 - B. I have personally verified the information by cross-checking the information on the websites of respective courts and also cross-verified by the information from multiple independent sources.
- 5. <u>Details of remedies exhausted:</u> This matter pertains to administration of justice by this Hon'ble Court. As such there are no other statutory and/or other remedies left to be availed.
- 6. <u>Nature and extent of injury caused or likely to be caused to</u> <u>the public:</u> By imputing motives/bias to the judges/courts, the entire judicial system is brought to disrepute. This shakes the confidence of the public in the judiciary and is detrimental for our country and democracy.
- 7. <u>Nature and extent of personal interest, if any, of the</u> <u>petitioners:</u> I have no personal interest except than to uphold the rule of law.
- 8. <u>Details regarding any civil, criminal or revenue litigation,</u> <u>involving the petitioner or any of the petitioners, which has</u> <u>or could have a legal nexus with the issue(s) involved in the</u> <u>Public Interest Litigation:</u> No such litigation, past or present.

7

9. Whether issue was raised earlier; if so, what result:

- A. I declare that the issues raised in this petition were neither dealt with nor decided by a Court of law either at my instance or, to the best of my knowledge, at the instance of any other person.
- B. I declare that in no P.I.L., any cost has been ever been awarded to or imposed upon me, and no appreciation or stricture has ever been passed for/against me.
- 10. <u>Whether concerned Government Authority was moved</u> for relief(s) sought in the petition and if so, with what result: This matter pertains to administration of justice by this Hon'ble Court. No representation is required to be sent to any government authority.

11.GROUNDS:

- A. Article- 19(2) of the Constitution of India enumerates the reasonable restrictions on Freedom of Speech and Expression. "Contempt of Court" is one of the reasonable restrictions under Article- 19(2).
- B. In a pending matter, where the court is seized of the dispute, there is no freedom of speech and expression, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.
- C. Similarly, there is no freedom of speech and expression vis-à-vis final judgments, orders or decrees of courts of

law, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings, and healthy criticism of the law applied by the courts, in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.

- D. Doing otherwise, directly or indirectly, would bring disrepute to the judiciary, and shake people's confidence in the system. If anyone has any grievance, he has the right to move the courts through appropriate proceedings. Ranting out in the media and imputing motives/bias on the judges is neither good for the system nor is the solution to the grievances of the aggrieved.
- E. If there are shortcomings in our Judicial System, we should take appropriate steps under the law to fix it and make the system better. We don't throw the baby out with the bath water just because the water is dirty. We don't cut roots of the very system that nourishes us and help us survive and bloom.
- 12. <u>Grounds for interim relief</u>: No interim relief is prayed.
- 13. <u>MAIN PRAYER:</u> On the basis of the above premises, it is most humbly and respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to issue a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ or order or direction as follows:
 - A. Declare that there is no freedom of speech and expression vis-à-vis pending matters before courts of law, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings, in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.

9

- B. Declare that there is no freedom of speech and expression vis-à-vis final judgments, orders or decrees of courts of law, except to the extent of fair and true reporting of court's proceedings, and healthy criticism of the law applied by the courts, in a manner that does not directly or indirectly impute motives/ bias to the judges/court.
- C. Pass any other or further order or orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case in the interest of justice and to meet the ends of justice.

14. Interim relief, if any: No interim relief is prayed.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS, YOUR HUMBLE PETITIONER, AS IN DUTY BOUND SHALL EVER PRAY

Place: New Delhi Drafted and e-filed on: 27.07.2020

> DR. SUBHASH VIJAYRAN (PETITIONER-IN-PERSON)

Annexure: P-1

MOST URGENT

Court 2 (Video Conferencing) ITEM NO.2

SECTION XV

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 8778/2020

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 21-07-2020 in DBCWP No. 7451/2020 passed by the High Court Of Judicature For Rajasthan At Jaipur)

THE HON'BLE SPEAKER, RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

PRITHVIRAJ MEENA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(FOR ADMISSION and I.R. and IA No.66836/2020-EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No.66838/2020-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA NO.66842/2020-APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING ORIGINAL VAKALATNAMA/OTHER DOCUMENT)

Date : 23-07-2020 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN MISHRA HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KRISHNA MURARI

Counsel for the parties

Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr.Adv. Mr. Vivek Tankha, Sr.Adv.

- Mr. Sunil Fernandes, Adv.
- Mr. Rahul Kaushik, Adv.
- Mr. Mohammad Nizam Pasha, Adv.
- Ms. Nupur Kumar, Adv.
- Mr. Muhammad Ali Khan, Adv.
- Mr. Prateek Kasliwal, Adv.
- Mr. Prastut Dalvi, Adv.
- Mr. Omar Hooda, Adv.
- Ms. Aishwarya Mohapatra, Adv.

Signature aiid Mr. Harish Salve, Sr. Adv. Mr. Mukul Rohtgi, Sr.Adv. Mr. S. Hari Haran, Adv. Ms. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, Adv. (For Respondent Nos.1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 13)

Mr. Devdatt Kamat, Sr.Adv. Mr. Varun K. Chopra, Adv. Mr. Rajesh Inamdar, Adv.

Mr. Aditya,Adv. Mr. Javedur Rehman,Adv. Mr. Gurtejpal Singh,Adv. For Ms. VKC Law Officers (For Respondent No. 20) Mr. Alok Gupta, Adv. (Appearance slip not given)

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following O R D E R

We have heard the learned senior counsel appearing for the parties at length.

The case requires prolonged hearing so as to decide the question of jurisdiction. However, prayer is made that the High Court should not pass an order on which it has heard the matter and reserved the order.

As the High Court has already heard the matter after prolonged arguments and reserved the order, we are not staying the passing of the order, however, whatever order is passed, shall be ultimately subject to the outcome of this petition.

List on Monday, the 27th of July, 2020 for further hearing.

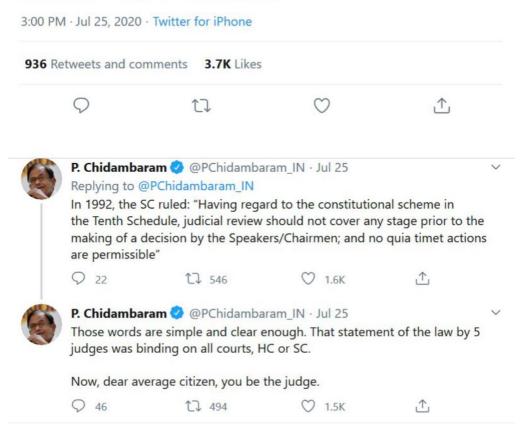
(NARENDRA PRASAD) AR-CUM-PS (JAYANT KUMAR ARORA) COURT MASTER (JAGDISH CHANDER) ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Gonty // TRUE COPY //

The Tweets



To the average citizen who is mystified by the orders of the HC and SC, the following passage in simple English should be easy to understand.





Some replies to the above tweets

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	john ekka @john		•	~	·
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17 \uparrow 01

vijayan t.a @vijayanrd · Jul 25 Replying to @PChidambaram_IN

If a party is anti India, this law won't act. People rejected SC uttarakand justice. People don't trust courts if it supports criminals. People are intelligent.

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	9	<u>↑</u> ↓	\bigcirc	\uparrow	

V

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Kovai_karan @KaranKovai · Jul 25

Replying to @PChidambaram_IN

Sir i just feel that our Judicial systems have become pupet of the ruling BJP and day by people ofc fhis country are loosing faith in it!!!!!!!

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Crastin Contraction	 rahul gakhar @gakharrahul · Jul 26 Replying to @PChidambaram_IN This Old man @narendramodi will destroy future of our generations. Historically whenever 1 man became extremely powerful in a nation. He had abused resources & ultimately everything end up in chaos. All world wars leaders are heroes in their nation. We all know their futures now. 				
	Q 2	1] 4	⊙ б	\uparrow	
1	Replying to @PC	ohankaviraj · Jul 25 nidambaram_IN o judge by us citizens た⊋	s in a dictatorship!	Ť	~

Sushma Mishra @Sushmamish · Jul 25 Replying to @PChidambaram_IN We know things are going wrong in this country.... But where do we go? What do we do? Q 1J 0 prafulla ratha @ratha_prafulla · Jul 25 Replying to @PChidambaram_IN We the average Indians understand the game played out by this regime sir. Q 17 $\bigcirc 1$ Î Milind Pusalkar @milind_pusalkar · Jul 25 Replying to @PChidambaram_IN and @INCIndia Emergency from 1975 to 1977. Now you be the judge. Q_1 17 \mathcal{O}_1 ≏ Harish Kapoor @hckapoorccc · Jul 25 How old are you. I am 68. I fully support the emergency. It should have been extended further. The undeclared emergency nowadays is much more worse. That emergency was to save the country. This emergency is only to save mody and shah. Q_3 17 3 0 13 ≏ wuntakal laxman @WuntakalL · Jul 25 I too support Indira's emergency. Q ⊥ 1] 1 $\bigcirc 1$

Emily // TRUE COPY //

ORAL ARGUMENTS

- Judges are not politicians. They can't respond or defend themselves against the various insinuations made against them in media. They have to focus on deciding cases. Disturbing the minds of judges by unnecessary insinuations hampers the ability of judges to think straight, and consequently hampers the administration of justice by them.
- 2. No system has ever been or will ever be perfect. But that doesn't mean that we destroy the entire system. In case we are not satisfied with an order of a court, we can take recourse according to law. To address the issue of misconduct by judges, we can bring a law on accountability of judges, prescribing various sanctions for various misconducts. We can have a National Judicial Accountability Commission to entertain complaints against judges. We can live telecast court proceedings to usher transparency. There are so many other methods that can be adopted within the bounds of law to improve our judicial system. But maligning the judges and judiciary is certainly not one of them.
- 3. We cannot allow any further damage to our judicial system by the disgruntled and those with habit of spewing venom in the garb of "Freedom of Speech and Expression". This court was not established to address the fancies of a handful of people who consume hundreds and hundreds of hours of this Court's precious time, arguing fanciful propositions, and then maligning the judiciary in the media. This Court was established for solving the real life problems of the billions of Indians who presently have to wait for 5 10 years to get a few minutes of hearing by this Hon'ble Court. It's time this court set things in order and define the bounds and manner within which one could report court proceedings and comment on the judiciary and the judges.