

**HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
AGARTALA**

WP(C)(PIL) No.06/2021

Court on its own motion

For Respondent(s) : Mr. S.S. Dey, Advocate General,
Mr. Debalay Bhattacharjee, G.A.,
Mr. Ratan Datta, P.P.,
Ms. Ayantika Chakraborty, Advocate,
Ms. Nikita Chakma Saha, Advocate.

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. AKIL KURESHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. TALAPATRA**

Order

06/05/2021
(Akil Kureshi, C.J.)

A news item published in print and electronic media yesterday and today carry extremely disturbing news. The gist of the reports is that the video recording of a young married lady in extremely intimate and compromising position with a man was shown in public in front of the members of the community of the village who it appears had gathered to discuss this issue. As if this much humiliation was not enough, going by the news reports, what followed was the grossest possible violation of human rights and extreme humiliation that any human being can be subjected to by fellow human beings through most barbaric acts perpetrated on her . Unable

to bear these insults and humiliation the young lady committed suicide on the next day, i.e. on 03.05.2021 by consuming poison.

The High Court decided to take cognizance of these news reports in a suo-motu public interest petition of which advance copies were provided to the learned Advocate General, learned Government Advocate and learned Public Prosecutor.

We do not accept the news story and would not accept it without full verification. However, even if a fraction of what is reported is true, it would shock the conscience of any citizen. Under the circumstances, we would like to gather full facts from the State administration for which purpose the following authorities shall be shown as respondents in this public interest petition:

- (1) The State of Tripura through the Chief Secretary;
- (2) Director General of Police;
- (3) The Superintendent of Police, South Tripura District, &
- (4) The SDPO, Sabroom Police Station.

Let there be notice to the respondents, returnable **07-05-2021**.

Learned Government Advocate waives notice on behalf of respondent No.1.

Learned Public Prosecutor waives notice on behalf of rest of the respondents.

By way of interim measures, following directions are issued:

(i) The respondents shall produce before the Court the status of inquiry so far carried out in relation to the said alleged incident including in relation to the unnatural death of the lady;

(ii) If any photographs or video footages are available of the alleged incident, the same shall be produced before the Court;

(iii) The family members of the deceased woman shall be provided full protection and statements of such family members, if not already recorded, shall be recorded without any further delay.

We are happy to record that the learned Advocate General and the Government Advocates have assured that this shall not be treated as an adversarial litigation and that they would provide fullest assistance to the Court so that the whole truth is brought on record and the matter is taken to its logical conclusion.

(S. TALAPATRA), J

(AKIL KURESHI), CJ

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O_R_D_E_R

07/05/2021

(Akil kureshi, CJ)

This *suo motu* public interest petition arises out of an unfortunate incident where one young married lady committed suicide on 04.05.2021 allegedly on account of extreme humiliation she was subjected to by some of the community members and residents of the village. In response to notice issued yesterday, the Government Advocate led by the learned Advocate General have appeared for all the respondents. Learned Advocate General stated that after confirmation of the fact that the lady had committed suicide which was based on the postmortem report, a formal FIR has been registered on 06.05.2021. The FIR discloses commission of offences punishable under Sections 323, 354, 306 read with Section 34 of IPC. Statements of some of the relatives of the deceased girl have been recorded. The investigation is being carried out in full earnest and as directed by the Court the family members of the deceased woman are provided round the clock security.

List the matter on *17th May, 2021*. On which date the learned Advocate General shall apprise the Court about the further development in the investigation. In particular, he shall provide for the Court's perusal translated copies of the statements of witnesses so far recorded by the investigating agency.

It appears that the video clips of the deceased women shown in compromising position may be circulating on Whatsapp and other social media platforms. The respondents and in particular the respondent No.2 shall ensure that all such circulations are blocked with immediate effect. For such purpose, he shall communicate these directions to the social media platform providers.

The investigation shall be supervised and guided by the Superintendent of Police, South Tripura District.

(S. TALAPATRA), J

सत्यमेव जयते

(AKIL KURESHI), CJ