

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CIVIL) No(s). 4/2026

IN RE: BRUTAL ASSAULT ON A MEMBER OF THE LEGAL FRATERNITY AND NEED
FOR JUDICIAL INTERVENTION Petitioner(s)

Date : 27-04-2026 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : By Courts Motion

Ms. Sneha Kalita, AOR
Mr. Ayush Yashaswi, Adv.
Ms. Pallavi Barua, AOR
Dr. K.S. Bhati, Adv.
Ms. Aparna Singh, Adv.
Mr. Narveer Dabas, Adv.
Mr. Tarun Rana, Adv.
Mr. Gagan Deep Kaur, Adv.

Mr. Ram Narayan Mohanty, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, ASG
Ms. Poornima Singh, Adv.
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.
Mr. Anirudh Singh, Adv.
Ms. Hemadri Sharma, Adv.
Ms. Khushboo Chaudhary, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. A letter dated 25.04.2026 addressed by Ms. Sneha Kalita, learned Advocate on Record, Supreme Court of India was received in the office of the Chief Justice of India yesterday. Through the letter, Ms. Sneha sought urgent intervention of this Court in the case of brutal assault on a woman advocate, including for the grant of compensation under the Compensation Scheme for Women Victims of

the National Legal Services Authority. In the letter, the learned AOR has sought the following reliefs:

"1. Take suo moto cognizance of the incident involving Advocate [XXX];

2. Direct the concerned State Authorities/Delhi Police to ensure immediate arrest of the accused persons and file a status report before this Hon'ble Court;

3. Direct the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) to forthwith assess and grant interim and final compensation to the victim under the NALSA Victim Compensation Scheme, considering the grievous and life-threatening nature of injuries;

4. Ensure free and best possible medical treatment, including reimbursement of all medical expenses incurred;

5. Pass any other order(s) deemed fit in the interest of justice, including protection measures for the victim and her family."

2. Along with the letter, certain photographs were also annexed, depicting a brutal assault on the victim-advocate with a sharp-edged weapon, resulting in multiple injuries to vital parts of her body. Having regard to the condition of the victim as reflected in the photographs, coupled with the fact that she was stated to be undergoing treatment at the Trauma Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi, we deemed it appropriate to take suo motu cognizance of the matter. Accordingly, the present petition was directed to be registered.

3. With an advance notice, Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, appears on behalf of the NCT Government of Delhi. The Investigating Officer is also present.

4. We are informed that FIR No.176/2026 has been registered at Police Station Khajuri Khas, Delhi (North East) under Section 109(1) of the Indian Penal Code. The husband of the victim, who is alleged to be the prime accused, has been arrested in the intervening night of 25-26.04.2026. The complaint also contains allegations against the in-laws of the victim, but they are stated to be absconding.

5. It may be noticed that the victim has three daughters born from the wedlock, aged 12 years, 4 years, and 1 year. Ms Kalita, learned AOR, whom we have requested to assist this Court as *Amicus Curiae*, informs that after the brutal attack on the victim, her in-laws took away two minor girl children (aged 4 years and 1 year) with them, and their whereabouts are unknown. The eldest girl child (aged 12 years) was allegedly abandoned outside the house by the accused husband, and she was recovered by the Police subsequently. She is, fortunately, now under the care and custody of her maternal grandparents and other maternal family members.

6. Conscious of the rights which a suspect/accused possesses regarding a fair and dispassionate investigation and also to ensure that no one involved goes scot-free, and keeping in view the other mitigating circumstances, we deem it appropriate to issue the following interim directions:

- (i) The Commissioner of Police, Delhi is directed to handover the investigation to a fairly senior officer, preferably a woman officer in the rank of Assistant/Deputy Commissioner of Police;

- (ii) The Police Authorities will find out the whereabouts of the two minor girl children, who are stated to have been taken away by the parents of the prime accused. If they are being well taken care of and looked after by their paternal grandmother, the current arrangement can continue till appropriate directions are issued on the next date of hearing; and
- (iii) The custody of the eldest daughter shall continue with the maternal grandparents and their family members, with whom she is presently staying.

7. We are informed that the victim was initially taken to Jag Pravesh Hospital, GTB Hospital, Kailash Deepak Hospital, and R.K. Hospital. She was refused admission by the last three hospitals, whereas the first hospital only provided first aid and referred her to some other hospital. She was finally admitted to Trauma Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi at around 6 a.m. on 23.04.2026. We direct the Investigating Officer to also look into this aspect of the matter and submit a status report on the next date of hearing.

8. Keeping all the attending circumstances and the fact that the victim is seemingly in dire need of financial assistance, especially to undergo treatment and to look after her minor daughters, we direct the National Legal Services Authority, through its Member Secretary, to release an interim sum of Rs.3 lakhs in favour of the victim. The amount shall be transferred to her bank

account forthwith, and in any case by tomorrow.

9. The Investigating Officer shall inform this Court regarding the ongoing investigation in the status report to be filed before the next date of hearing.

10. Post the matter on 11.05.2026.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR