

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA  
AT HYDERABAD**

**THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE N.TUKARAMJI**

**WRIT PETITION No.23418 OF 2016**

**DATE: 23.03.2026**

Between :

Madiseti Samelu

... Petitioner

AND

State of Telangana,  
Rep., by its Principal Secretary to Government, Home  
Department, Telangana Secretariat, Saifabad, Hyderabad and  
three others.

... Respondents.

**ORDER:**

This Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of  
India seeking the following relief:

*“...To issue a writ order or direction more particularly one in the nature of WRIT OF MANDAMUS declaring the action of 3rd respondent in opening and continuing rowdy sheet against the petitioners on the rolls of 4th respondent as illegal irregular irrational without jurisdiction and violative of provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Police Standing Orders and offends articles 14 and 21 of Constitution of India and consequently quash the rowdy sheet and*

*direct the respondents not to interfere with the petitioner liberty in any manner and pass such other order or orders as the Honble Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.*

2.1. Mr. Namavarapu Chantibabu, learned counsel for the petitioner, submits that the petitioner is a social worker actively engaged in serving the welfare of backward and tribal communities. It is contended that, owing to local political rivalry and his support to landless poor persons, the petitioner has been falsely implicated in multiple criminal cases. It is further submitted that most of such cases have either ended in compromise or have been withdrawn. Despite the aforesaid position, the respondent police authorities, without any lawful justification, opened a rowdy sheet against the petitioner and have been continuing the same from time to time.

2.2. Learned counsel further contends that the petitioner has not committed any act affecting public peace or tranquility, and yet the police authorities are insisting on his appearance and frequently sending constables to his residence, thereby infringing his fundamental rights. It is specifically contended that the police authorities lack valid grounds or justifiable circumstances either to open or to continue the rowdy/suspect sheet, particularly when the criminal cases against the

petitioner have not culminated in convictions. Accordingly, it is prayed that this Court may quash the rowdy sheet.

3.1. Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Home, on instructions, submits that the petitioner has been involved in as many as 20 criminal cases, and as per the latest records, a total of 24 cases, including bind over proceedings, have been registered against him between the years 2003 and 2024. It is further submitted that the petitioner is frequently visiting tribal villages, conducting meetings, and instigating local inhabitants to agitate for land and to encroach upon private, Government, and forest lands, thereby creating law and order problems. It is also alleged that the petitioner is involved in unlawful activities such as attempting to grab Government lands and extracting money from gullible members of the public, though due to fear, no one has come forward to lodge formal complaints.

3.2. It is contended that the continuation of the rowdy sheet is necessary as a preventive measure and that the competent authority has been periodically reviewing and renewing the rowdy sheet in accordance with the Standing Orders. Therefore, it is argued that the petition lacks merit and is liable to be dismissed.

4. I have perused the material placed on record and considered the submissions of the learned counsels.

5. The record discloses that multiple criminal cases have been registered against the petitioner over a period spanning from 2003 to 2024. The petitioner asserts that he is a social worker engaged in the upliftment of marginalized communities, whereas the respondent police authorities allege that his activities contribute to law and order disturbances.

6. At the outset, it is to be noted that in a democratic polity governed by the Constitution, activities such as organizing meetings, raising awareness among marginalized communities, or even mobilizing them to agitate for land rights cannot, by themselves, be construed as unlawful, unless there exists credible material demonstrating that such activities are intended to incite violence or disturb public order.

7. The respondent authorities have made general allegations that the petitioner is encouraging encroachments and engaging in unlawful activities; however, no specific instances, supporting material, or concrete evidence have been placed on record to substantiate such claims. Mere assertions, in the absence of verifiable material, cannot justify continued surveillance measures that impinge upon individual liberty.

8. It is pertinent to refer to Standing Order No.601 of the (Andhra Pradesh) Telangana Police Manual, which prescribes the conditions and procedure for opening and continuing a rowdy sheet. The said Standing Order permits such action as a preventive measure where a person is habitually involved in offences affecting public peace and tranquility. Additionally, the Standing Order also mandates periodic and meaningful review of such surveillance, recognizing that maintenance of a rowdy sheet has serious implications on the fundamental rights of an individual, particularly under Articles 14, 19, and 21 of the Constitution of India.

9. The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, (2017) 10 SCC 1, has recognized the right to privacy as an intrinsic part of Article 21. Similarly, in *Malak Singh v. State of Punjab*, (1981) 1 SCC 420, the Apex Court held that surveillance over individuals must not be excessive, arbitrary, or lacking in procedural safeguards.

10. In the present case, the material on record indicates that the renewal of the rowdy sheet has been carried out at annual intervals, contrary to the requirement of periodic review as contemplated under the Standing Orders; the proposal for renewal submitted by the Sub-Inspector of Police contains generalized and unsubstantiated allegations, such as the petitioner being "young and energetic" and

allegedly encouraging tribals to encroach upon lands; the recommendation made by the Circle Inspector and the approval granted by the Sub-Divisional Police Officer appear to be mechanical, with endorsements such as “permitted,” without recording any independent reasons or satisfaction based on material; and there is no specific material placed on record demonstrating any recent overt act by the petitioner affecting public peace or law and order. Such a mechanical exercise of power, without application of mind and without supporting material, is contrary to the mandate of law and the safeguards envisaged under the Standing Orders.

11. In the absence of concrete material demonstrating that the petitioner is habitually involved in activities affecting public peace, the continued maintenance of the rowdy sheet cannot be justified. The same amounts to arbitrary exercise of power and violates the petitioner’s fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

12. In this view, this Court is of the considered view that the continuation of the rowdy sheet against the petitioner is unsustainable and liable to be set aside.

13. Accordingly, the rowdy sheet opened against the petitioner is hereby quashed. The respondent police authorities are directed to

forthwith take all consequential steps to remove the petitioner's name from the rowdy/suspect sheet registers.

14. It is, however, made clear that this order shall not preclude the respondent police authorities from initiating fresh proceedings, if warranted, strictly in accordance with law and in compliance with the requirements of Standing Order No.601.

15. With the above directions, the writ petition is allowed. There shall be no order as to costs.

Pending miscellaneous applications, if any, shall stand closed.

Date: 23.03.2026

MRKR

N.TUKARAMJI, J

**THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE N. TUKARAMJI**

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