



2026:KER:51108

W.P.(Crl.)No.983/2026

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.GIRISH

TUESDAY, THE 14TH DAY OF JULY 2026 / 23RD ASHADHA, 1948

WP(CRL.) NO. 983 OF 2026

CRIME NO.1548/2018 OF ERNAKULAM CENTRAL POLICE STATION,
ERNAKULAM

IN SC NO.1068 OF 2018 OF DISTRICT COURT & SESSIONS
COURT/RENT CONTROL APPELLATE AUTHORITY, ERNAKULAM

PETITIONERS/ ACCUSED NOS.1, 2 & 4 TO 6:

- 1 MUHAMMED J. I.
 AGED 29 YEARS
 S/O. IBRAHIM, JAVADH MANZIL,
 VADUTHALA, NADUVATH NAGAR P. O.,
 NEAR ABRAN ARABIC COLLEGE,
 ARUKUTTI VILLAGE,
 CHERTHALA TALUK, ALAPPUZHA,
 PIN - 688524
- 2 ARIF BIN SALIM
 AGED 33 YEARS
 S/O. MUHAMMED SALIM,
 CHAMAKKALAYIL VEEDU,
 CHUNANGAMVELIKKARA,
 ERUMATHALA P. O., ALUVA EAST VILLAGE,
 ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683112
- 3 BILAL SAJI
 AGED 26 YEARS
 S/O. SAJI, CHIRACKAL HOUSE,
 PATHANAD, KANGAZHA,
 CHENGANASSERY, KOTTAYAM,
 PIN - 686541
- 4 FAROKH AMANI
 AGED 27 YEARS
 S/O. ISMAIL, NARAKATHUMKUZHI HOUSE,



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CHUNKAPPARA BHAGOM, KULATHOOR POST,
KOTTANGAL VILLAGE,
PATHANAMTHITTA, PIN - 686547

- 5 RAJEEB P. M.
AGED 33 YEARS
S/O. MUHAMMAD,
PERINGATTU PARAMBU HOUSE,
NETTOOR POST, NEAR NETTOOR MAHAL AUDITORIUM,
MARADU VILLAGE, KANAYANNOOR TALUK,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682304

BY ADVS.
SHRI.E.A.HARIS
SHRI.M.A.AHAMMAD SAHEER
SRI.MUHAMMED YASIL
SMT.AAGI JOHNY
SMT.IFRA IQBAL

RESPONDENTS/STATE & COMPLAINANT:

- 1 STATE OF KERALA
REPRESENTED BY PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KERALA,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031
- 2 STATION HOUSE OFFICER
ERNAKULAM CENTRAL POLICE STATION,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682018
- 3 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
CONTROL ROOM, KOCHI,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682018
- 4 ADDL.R4.BHOOPATHI
AGED 52 YEARS
SUPPUVEEDU HOUSE, VATTAVADA,
KOVILLOOR P.O., IDUKKI ,
KERALA - 685615
ADDL.R4, IMPEADED VIDE ORDER DATED 07/07/2026 IN IA
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BY ADVS.



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SHRI.K.S.ARUN KUMAR FOR ADDL.R4
SMT.DEEPA VARMA K.
SHRI.VIJAY SANKAR V.H.
SMT.AMRUTHA K P
SHRI.JERIN JOSEPH
SRI. SAMEER.S, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

THIS WRIT PETITION (CRIMINAL) HAVING COME UP FOR
ADMISSION ON 07.07.2026, THE COURT ON 14.07.2026 DELIVERED THE
FOLLOWING:

**J U D G M E N T**

Accused Nos.1, 2 and 4 to 6 in S.C No.1068/2018 on the files of the Sessions Court, Ernakulam have filed this writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking the following reliefs:

- "i) *Issue a writ within the nature of mandamus or any such other appropriate writ, direction or order commanding the 2nd and 3rd respondent to complete the investigation against Accused Nos.17 to 26 and file the final report within a time frame to be fixed by this Hon'ble Court.*
- ii) *Declare that the continuation of trial in S.C No.1068/2018 on the files of the Sessions Court, Ernakulam, as against A1 to A16, until the completion of the investigation in Crime No.1548/2018, including the investigation against A17 to A26, would be violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India.*
- iii) *Issue a writ in the nature of certiorari or such other writ, direction or order calling for the records leading up to Exhibit P7 and quash the same;*
- iv) *To dispense with filing of translation of vernacular documents in the interest of justice.*
- v) *Grant such other reliefs as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit to grant in the facts and circumstances of the case."*

2. The aforesaid case relates to a bizarre incident of campus violence, in which a degree student below the age of 20, was stabbed to



death in the wee hours of 02.07.2018 at the rear side of a renowned Government College in Ernakulam. According to the prosecution, the petitioners herein, along with eleven others, had mounted physical assault upon the victim pursuant to a dispute pertaining to making wall-writings promoting the students' organization to which the victim and the assailants were activists. As per the prosecution case, the accused Nos.1 to 16, who were the activists of a students' organization by name Campus Front, which was not there in that College till then, hatched a criminal conspiracy to unleash terror and violence in the campus, to facilitate their entry into that College. It is stated that the objective of the accused was to oppress the students' organization by name Students' Federation of India (SFI), by physical violence, to avoid impediments in the smooth functioning of Campus Front. In addition to a general conspiracy in the above regard, accused Nos.1 to 16 are alleged to have conspired to attack the activists of SFI, including the victim, and arrived at the place of occurrence armed with dangerous weapons like knife, punching block, wooden rod, etc., and provoked the activists of SFI by effacing the writings made by SFI in the compound wall of the College. When the activists of SFI, including the



victim, questioned the above act of the accused, the first accused is alleged to have pointed out the victim, who was caught hold of by the 9th accused, to enable the 10th accused to thrust a dangerous knife into the left chest of the victim. The 11th accused is alleged to have caught hold of CW2 to enable the 12th accused to stab CW2 upon his stomach. The 13th accused is alleged to have stabbed CW3 upon his buttocks and threatened the other witnesses by brandishing a knife. The 6th accused is alleged to have caught hold of CW4 to enable the 15th accused to stab CW4 upon his chest with a sword stick. The 3rd accused is alleged to have hit CW6 upon his face with a punching block. All the other accused are also alleged to have actively participated in the aforesaid violence by physically assaulting the activists of SFI who were present there. It is the specific allegation of the prosecution that the accused Nos.1 to 16 resorted to the aforesaid acts, pursuant to their criminal conspiracy to physically assault the victim and the other activists of SFI, and unleashed the violence as stated above, in prosecution of their common object. As a consequence of the aforesaid violence, the victim breathed his last at the spot itself while the other seriously injured witnesses were fortunate enough to survive death due to timely treatment.



3. In addition to accused Nos.1 to 16, the prosecution has roped in accused Nos.17 to 26 for harbouring the accused Nos.1 to 16, and helping them to abscond. However, the first tranche of final report was filed against the accused Nos.1 to 16 in connection with the criminal acts perpetrated by them as stated in paragraph No.2 above. It is stated in the aforesaid final report that as against the accused Nos.17 to 26, a separate final report would be filed, in respect of the accusations against them, after the completion of procedural formalities.

4. Alleging that the trial in the case against accused Nos.1 to 16 is being protracted, the mother of the victim filed O.P(CrI) No.920/2024 before this Court for speedy disposal of S.C No.1068/2018 on the files of the Sessions Court, Ernakulam. After getting a report from the learned Sessions Judge about the time required for the disposal of the case, this Court directed the Sessions Court to dispose of the said case within a period of nine months from the date of receipt of a copy of the judgment in that original petition.

5. In the meanwhile, two among the accused, against whom the final report was yet to be filed, instituted W.P(CrI) No.498/2025 before this Court for a direction to the investigating agency to expedite



the investigation and to file final report against them. In the aforesaid writ petition, this Court passed a judgment on 05.06.2025, directing the Investigating officer to complete the investigation as expeditiously as possible.

6. At a time when the Trial Court was about to frame charges against accused Nos.1 to 16 in the final report which was numbered as S.C No.1068/2018, the first accused filed a petition before the Sessions Court with a prayer to call for the complete final report from the Investigating Officer after completing the investigation against the accused, who are yet to be charge sheeted. The aforesaid petition was dismissed by the learned Sessions Judge by the order dated 15.06.2026. It is thereafter that the petitioners have approached this Court with this writ petition seeking the reliefs as stated in paragraph No.1 above.

7. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners, learned counsel representing additional 4th respondent, and the learned Government Pleader representing the State of Kerala.

8. According to the petitioners, the commencement of trial against them at a time when the investigation against the accused Nos.17 to 26 is in progress, will render gross prejudice to them. It is



thus contended that the basic principles for ensuring a fair trial will be thrown to the winds if the petitioners are compelled to face the trial on a piecemeal basis.

9. The accusation against accused Nos.1 to 16 in the final report filed against them, leaves no room for any ambiguity or confusion. It is the specific case of the prosecution that the accused Nos.1 to 16 hatched criminal conspiracy on two counts. Firstly, they are alleged to have conspired to unleash violence and terror in the campus with a view to facilitate their entry in the student politics of that campus. According to the prosecution, the accused felt that such a measure is necessary to oppress the students' organization by name SFI, which is having predominant presence in the campus. Thus, by adopting the course of violence and resorting to physical assault on the activists of SFI, the above said accused Nos.1 to 16 are alleged to have intended to mow down the resistance of the above students' organization which is said to have gained widespread acceptance of the students of that campus.

10. The second spell of criminal conspiracy nurtured by accused Nos.1 to 16, as per the allegations in the final report, was for physically attacking with dangerous weapons, the activists of SFI, including the



victim, who were involved in carrying out the writings in the compound walls of the College, promoting their organisation. It is for accomplishing the above common object of the second conspiracy that accused Nos.1 to 16 are alleged to have mounted physical assault upon the victim and the other activists of SFI in the wee hours of 02.07.2018, which eventually resulted in the loss of life of the victim. Thus, the final report filed against the accused Nos.1 to 16 is confined to the aforesaid criminal conspiracies and consequent acts which led to the incident which happened in the wee hours of 02.07.2018.

11. As against the accused Nos.17 to 26, the allegations are confined to harbouring the offenders and aiding and abetting their escape from the clutches of law. It is due to the aforesaid reason that, in the final report, which has been taken on to files as S.C No.1068/2018 of the Sessions Court, Ernakulam, the accused Nos.1 to 16 alone are arraigned. The charge which the above accused are liable to answer in the said case is in respect of the criminal conspiracies and the physical assault upon the victim and others on 02.07.2018 as stated in the foregoing paragraphs. Therefore, there is absolutely no basis for the argument that the act of the investigating agency deferring the filing of



final report as against the accused Nos.17 to 26 would cause prejudice to accused Nos.1 to 16. The argument of the learned counsel for the petitioners that the prosecution might use the materials collected in the investigation against accused Nos.17 to 26 to the detriment of the interests of accused Nos.1 to 16, is totally unfounded in view of the marked distinction in the nature of the allegations levelled against accused Nos.1 to 16 when compared to the allegation against accused Nos.17 to 26. By no stretch of imagination could it be said that the continuance of the trial against the accused Nos.1 to 16 at a time when the investigation against accused Nos.17 to 26 is in progress, would cause prejudice to accused Nos.1 to 16. The demand of the petitioners herein to keep the trial in S.C No.1068/2018 in abeyance pending the completion of the investigation against accused Nos.17 to 26, can only be considered as an attempt to procrastinate the trial in the said case. Since there is absolutely no sustainable grounds to keep the trial in S.C No.1068/2018 in abeyance, pending the investigation against accused Nos.17 to 26, the Trial Court is bound to comply with the direction in the judgment rendered by this Court in O.P (CrI) No.920/2024 for time



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bound disposal of the aforesaid case. Therefore, this writ petition is devoid of merit.

In the result, the writ petition is hereby dismissed.

(sd/-)

G. GIRISH, JUDGE

jsr



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APPENDIX OF WP(CRL.) NO. 983 OF 2026

PETITIONER EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT P1	THE TRUE COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT DATED 24.09.2018 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P2	A TRUE COPY OF THE REMAND REPORT OF ACCUSED 1 AND 25 DATED 18.07.2018 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P3	A TRUE COPY OF THE REMAND REPORT DATED 18.07.2018 OF ACCUSED 24 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P4	A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT DATED 24.01.2025 IN O.P.(CRL.) NO. 920/2024 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT
EXHIBIT P5	A TRUE COPY OF THE JUDGMENT IN W.P(CRL) NO.498/2025 DATED 05.06.2025 OF THIS HON'BLE COURT
EXHIBIT P6	A TRUE COPY OF THE PETITION DATED 19.05.2026 IN CRL.M.P NO. 3 OF 2026 IN SC 1068/2018 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P7	A TRUE COPY OF THE ORDER IN CRL.M.P NO. 3 OF 2026 IN SC 1068/2018 DATED 15.06.2026 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM
EXHIBIT P8	THE TRUE COPY OF THE CASE PROCEEDINGS IN SC 1068/2018 ON THE FILES OF SESSIONS COURT, ERNAKULAM

RESPONDENT EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT R4 (A)	TRUE COPY OF JUDGEMENT DATED 24/01/2025 IN OP(CRL) NO:920 OF 2024
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