



HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

WP (C) No.350/2026

Date of order: 03.08.2026

High Court of Meghalaya
Bar Association & anr

Vs.

State of Meghalaya

Coram:

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioners : Mr. K. Paul, Sr.Adv with
Mr. S. Dey, Adv
Mr. K. Ch. Gautam, Adv

For the Respondent : Mr. A. Kumar, Advocate General with
Mrs. N.G. Shylla, Sr.GA
Mr. Atiar S. Dey,GA
Mr. J.N. Rynjah, GA

Heard learned counsel for the respective parties.

2. Pursuant to the order dated 31st July, 2026, Mr. Kumar, learned Advocate General has tendered an affidavit of Shri Vivek Syiem, IPS, Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong dated 2nd August, 2026. The said affidavit is taken on record.

3. Mr. Syiem, Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, is personally present in Court, as directed vide order dated 31st July, 2026.



4. From the said affidavit, it appears that an FIR has been lodged at the instance of a Police Officer from Sardar Police Station i.e. being Sardar P.S. Case No.275 (07) 2026, as against a group comprising members of HNYF for the alleged offences punishable under Sections 189(1)(c)(e)(2)/ 126(2)/ 115(2)/ 196(1)(c)/ 351(2)/ 356(2)/ 3(5) of the BNS.

5. The affidavit discloses that pursuant to the FIR, four persons belonging to HNYF came to be arrested and that investigation is still in progress. The said FIR was registered on 31st July, 2026. It further appears that, the Advocate who was assaulted by a group comprising members of the HNYF was sent for a medical checkup to Shillong Medical College, Civil Hospital, Shillong. The said medico-legal case papers are at page 17 at Annexure-R1. From the said medico-legal papers, it appears that the Advocate, on whom violence was perpetrated, has been punched in his left cheek and jaw and that swelling was seen on his left cheek and lower lips and history of pain in the right knee. It appears that there was loss of consciousness for about 5 to 10 minutes. It further appears that to collect NCCT head and face with 3D reconstruction report was advised. It further appears



from the affidavit that, the police have collected and preserved the digital footage starting from Keating Road till Sadar Police Station.

6. Since, there was a press briefing given by non-State actors within the precincts of the police station, the Superintendent of Police has issued a standing departmental prohibition upon press briefings by non-State actors within the limits of police premises. We expect that the Director General of Police, Meghalaya also issues such a direction or standing orders to all Police Stations, so as to ensure that Police Stations/Prisons cannot be used for press briefing by any political parties/NGOs, etc., other than the police.

7. Mr. Kumar, learned Advocate General seeks further time to place a detailed affidavit on record with respect to compliance of the directions given by the Apex Court in *Tehseen S. Poonawalla's* case. Time granted.

8. At this stage, Mr. Paul, learned Senior Advocate submits that the Bar Council of Meghalaya had held a meeting on 31st July, 2026 and that they have issued certain directions to all Bar



Associations within the State of Meghalaya. He submits that the Bar Council of Meghalaya is committed to the safety and dignity of women Advocates practicing within the State as well as young lady interns and as such, will be coming up with some mechanism to address the said issue. He too seeks time to place on affidavit the steps that the Bar Council of Meghalaya has taken and intends to take to address the safety and dignity of practicing lady Advocates and young lady interns.

9. Considering the larger issue, we deem it appropriate to direct the petitioners to implead the Bar Council of Meghalaya as well as the Bar Council of India, as party respondents so as to enable them to place their respective responses, in terms of addressing the safety and dignity of practicing women Advocates/girl interns in various courts. The said impleadment to be done during the course of the day.

10. Issue notice to the newly added respondents returnable within two weeks.

11. Mr. G. Syngrem, Secretary, waives notice on behalf of the Bar Council of Meghalaya.



12. In addition to Court notice, learned counsel for the petitioners to serve the Bar Council of India by private notice/dasti and file affidavit of service before the next date.

13. Needless to state that, in the meantime and as assured by Mr. Paul, drop box facility will be made mandatory in all Bar Associations as well as in the Bar Council of Meghalaya offices, at the earliest and in any event during the course of this week, so that the grievances pertaining to sexual harassment of women Advocates and interns, can be addressed. Statement accepted.

14. Although, the presence of the Superintendent of Police is dispensed with on the next date, the Investigating Officer investigating both **Sadar P.S. Case No.275 (07) 2026** and **Sadar P.S. Case No.265 (07) 2026**, to remain present with the papers pertaining to the investigation of the said case.

15. Stand over to **19th August, 2026**.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Revati Mohite Dere)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
03.08.2026
"Lam DR-PS"