



ITEM NO.26

COURT NO.6

SECTION II-A

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No.13759/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 28-10-2024 in CRADB No. 425/2002 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

SIMON SOREN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 83959/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. AND IA No. 83958/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM SURRENDERING WITHIN TIME)

Date : 19-08-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) :

Ms. Fauzia Shakil, AOR
Ms. Nazmeen Ahmed, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :

Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Ragunath, Adv.

Mr. Ninad Laud, Adv.
Mr. Zubin Dash, Adv.
Mr. Deb Ganapathy, Adv.
Ms. Mishi Gupta, Adv.
Ms. Narain Rashika Ashok, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. The above case projects the failure of the judicial system, when a crime went unpunished and the accused were put to the torture of a prolonged trial of 22 years and then after conviction, the appeal filed having been dismissed after yet another 2 decades and 2 years. The crime, which was committed in the year 1981, was a double murder. Six accused were arrayed, of which two died before

the framing of the charges and three of the four convicted, died while the appeal was pending before the High Court. The sole remaining accused, aged about 70 and troubled with multiple ailments, has surrendered into custody after the High Court convicted him. Altogether, he has spent only 2 years, 4 months and 12 days in custody; hence the crime went unpunished.

2. Despite the horrendous crime of a double murder, we cannot close our eyes to the ordeal suffered by the accused in the last 45 years. Especially noting his medical condition and the affidavit of the State that the petitioner is admitted in the hospital, though in custody, we suspend the sentence and direct that the petitioner shall be released forthwith on condition of his not committing any crime when on bail and on his personal surety.

3. In the meantime, let the original record be requisitioned in the physical as well as digital form with a request to the High Court\Trial Court to send it within four weeks. Upon receipt of the records, the soft copy of the same be made available to the learned counsel for the respective parties as per the procedure adopted by the Registry.

4. By our earlier order, we had also directed the High Court to give us a comprehensive Report as to why the trial and the disposal of the Criminal Appeal was delayed to such an extent. An affidavit has been filed by the Registrar General of the High Court, which reveals a shocking pendency of criminal appeals. The delay in trial was explained with the submission that the accused were absconding for 6 years but there is no explanation for the 12 years, it took for the trial to be completed when the charges were framed in the year 1991. We also notice from the Report of the District and Sessions Judge that the case was transferred from one Court to another, five times in the 11 years after the charge was framed.

5. We were concerned with the pendency of the Criminal Appeals as pointed out in the Report of the High Court and we hence thought it fit to permit the petitioner to implead the Union of India in the above matter. The learned Advocate-on-Record appearing for the High

Court would serve a copy of the Affidavit of Compliance filed by the Registrar General to the Office of the Attorney General/Solicitor General.

6. The matter shall be posted on 18.09.2026.

(VISHAL ANAND)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)

