

Serial No. 03
Regular List

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No. 13 of 2018

Date of order: 26.05.2022

M. Kharkongor

vs.

State of Meghalaya

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Mr. S.P. Mahanta, Amicus Curiae with
Mr. M. Lyngdoh, Adv.

For the Respondent : Mr. S. Sengupta, Addl.Sr.GA with
Ms. S. Laloo, GA
Dr. N. Mozika, ASG with
Ms. K. Gurung, GA

i) Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: Yes/No

ii) Whether approved for publication in press: Yes/No

JUDGMENT: (per the Hon'ble, the Chief Justice) (Oral)

An important matter of public interest was brought to the fore in course of the present public interest litigation.

2. There is a perception that there may be concerted moves by inimical interests to push drugs and psychotropic substances in the North-East, particularly in and around Shillong which attracts tourists and a lot of the younger crowd.

3. With the assistance of learned Amicus Curiae and the several meetings conducted with State and private officials at various levels, including the welcome participation of the defence personnel, the need to be on the guard may have been realised by the State administration.

4. Without going into the details, it is evident that steps have been taken to ensure that the drug menace does not set deep roots in the State or around the city. Both the police and the civil administration have indicated several checks and guards having been put in place and constant monitoring.

5. At the end of the day, the object of the exercise by way of a public interest litigation is to make the authorities aware and guide them in taking appropriate steps where some deficiency is noticed. From the various affidavits and reports filed, it is evident that the State is alive to the problem and that appropriate measures have been or are being put in place to deal with the problem. Even the Army, Air Force and the paramilitary forces which are present in the State have participated in the meetings and have introduced measures to augment the civilian government's efforts in such regard.

6. The present petition may have served its purpose for the moment. However, it will be open to any public-spirited individual to bring the

matter to the notice of the Court afresh, if the desired measures are not in place or there is any dropping of the guard by the administration.

7. The only additional point that ought to be recorded is for the State to set up adequate number of rehabilitation centres with appropriate facilities. Many a sad parent in the State with a child who is afflicted with addiction, is now required to look beyond the State for appropriate rehabilitation centres. This should not continue.

8. PIL No. 13 of 2018 is disposed of and closed with a word of appreciation for learned Amicus Curiae and Advocates representing the State for going beyond the call of duty to address an issue of great importance.

9. There will be no order as to costs.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Sanjib Banerjee)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
26.05.2022
"Sylvana PS"