

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT SRINAGAR

WP (C) PIL No. 10/2021

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Forum

...Petitioner(s)

Through: Mr. Shafqat Nazir, Adv. with Mr Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Adv.

Vs.

Govt. of JK th. Pr. Sec. to Govt. & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Through: Mr. D. C. Raina, AG with Mr. Sajad Ashraf, GA.

Coram:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR JUSTICE SANJAY DHAR, JUDGE

ORDER

30.07.2021

1. Heard Mr Shafqat Nazir, learned counsel assisted by Mr Shabir Ahmad Bhat, learned counsel for the petitioner & Mr. D. C. Raina, learned AG assisted by Mr. Sajad Ashraf, GA. appearing for the respondents.
2. Apart from other things, the grievance raised in this Public Interest Litigation is about the mushrooming growth of news agencies on social media especially the news portals which are involved in circulating fake news. It is alleged that in the Union Territory, several such news portals like Kashmir News, Kashmir Voice, Kashmir Breaking News, News Kashmir 24/7, Kashmir Business Hub and Bol Kashmir etc are operating freely without any registration or license from any authority and these news portals are not under supervision and control of any authority whatsoever.
3. In the light of the aforesaid averments, we call upon the respondents to file response specifically pointing out to provisions of law under such news portals if at all are required to be registered or licensed and if so whether the above news portals are running with due permission in accordance with law and whether any agency is examining the contents of the news circulated by these news portals.
4. A reply in this regard may be filed within one month.
5. List on 1st September 2021.

(SANJAY DHAR)
JUDGE

(PANKAJ MITHAL)
CHIEF JUSTICE

SRINAGAR

30.07.2021