

A.MUHAMED MUSTAQUE & C.S.DIAS, JJ.

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**OP(F.C) Nos.352, 290, 420,433,436,441,447,
456,493,517 and 526 of 2020 and 35, 37,38,43
45,47,51,52,58,60,64,65,66,68,69,73,74,76,78
and 89 of 2021**

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Dated this the 23rd day of November, 2023.

ORDER

Read our orders dated 24.6.2022, 29.7.2022,
28.10.2022, 10.2.2023, 3.3.2023 and 12.9.2023.

2. By order dated 3.3.2023, this Court had directed the competent officer of the State to furnish the security arrangements that are provided in the Courts of the District Judiciary in the State of Kerala and to the Officers of the said Courts.

3. Pursuant to the above order, the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Kerala, has filed an affidavit, inter alia, admitting that the State of Kerala has filed a counter affidavit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Karunakar Mahalik v. Union of India** [WP(C) No.1422/2019 and SMW (Crl) No.2/2021] — (a suo motu case registered after the murder of a Judicial Officer in the State of Jharkhand) — undertaking to provide sufficient security to the Judges and the Courts in the State of Kerala. He has further stated that the Government of Kerala has deployed adequate Police personnel in the Court premises during working hours.

4. Consequent to the filing of the above affidavit, the Registrar (District Judiciary) was directed to call for a

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report from all Courts of the District Judicature to ascertain the security arrangements in place.

5. The Registrar (District Judiciary) has placed on record his report dated 3.10.2023 with the communications received from the Principal District Judges in the State.

6. On going through Annexure A appended to the report, it is seen that, except for a few Courts, security arrangements are yet to be made.

7. We have witnessed sporadic untoward incidents in different courts in the State. We cannot be in a slumber till an untoward incident occurs. An ounce of prevention is

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worth a pound of cure. The State is obliged to keep up with its undertaking before the Honourable Supreme Court that it will maintain law and order in all the court premises and provide adequate police protection to the Officers of the District Judiciary. Hence, we suo-motu implead the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home Department, Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram and the State Police Chief, Police Head Quarters, Thiruvananthapuram as additional respondents 5 and 6 in the original petition. The Registry is directed to carry out the impleadment. The report of the Registrar (District Judiciary), along with Annexure-A, shall be appended to this order.

8. Sri.Pranoy K.Kottaram, the learned counsel appearing for the Bar Council of Kerala, submitted that necessary steps have been taken to coordinate with all

the Bar Associations in the State to start child-friendly rooms in the Family Courts. He informed us that a child-friendly room has been opened in the Family Court, Ernakulam, with the cooperation of the members of the District Bar Association. This Court records its appreciation for the members of the Bar Association for their cooperation. We are confident that the members of the other District Bar Associations would emulate the above Bar Association.

In the result, we direct the additional respondents 5 and 6 to immediately provide adequate police protection in all the court premises in the State of Kerala and to the officers of the District Judiciary as stated in Annexure A report. The Registrar (District Judiciary) and the Chief Security Officer of this Court shall coordinate with

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respondents 5 and 6 and work out the modalities to
implement the order. A compliance report shall be placed
on record before the next posting date.

Post on 12.1.2024.

sd/- A.MUHAMED MUSTAQUE, JUDGE

sd/- C.S.DIAS ,JUDGE

sks/23.11.2023

