

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

PIL No. 33 of 2023

International Meetels Forum

Petitioner

Vs.

State of Manipur; & Ors.

Respondents

BEFORE

HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR. MV MURALIDARAN

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA

03.08.2023

Acting CJ:

[1] Heard Mr. M. Hemchandra, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. M. Rendy, learned counsel for the petitioner; Mr. H. Debendra, learned Dy. AG, Manipur assisted by A. Bheigya Meitei, learned counsel for the State respondents and Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI assisted by Mr. Paikhomba, learned counsel for the Union of India.

[2] When the matter was taken up for Motion on 02.08.2023, on hearing both parties, this Court directed the State Government, namely, the Chief Secretary of Manipur and Director General of Police, Manipur to file a report before this Court about the stand of the State Government in respect of the land in question and directed to post the matter on 03.08.2023 before the Special Bench of Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh and Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Guneshwar Sharma.

[3] Later on, the Registry has put up a note before the Acting Chief Justice by stating that Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. Bimol Singh, due to his personal inconvenience, he is unable to take up the matter and also to that effect, he

has passed an order and directed the Registry to place the matter before the Acting Chief Justice. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice has directed to place the record before him on 03.08.2023.

[4] After knowing about the order, Mr. H. Debendra, learned Dy. AG on 03.08.2023 morning at 05:00 A.M. has mentioned before the Acting Chief Justice in his residence by requesting to take up the case today itself as an unlisted matter, for the reason that in and around the land in question, a big mob from both the communities have gathered and at any moment, violence may take place.

[5] Mr. M. Hemchandra, the learned senior counsel for the petitioner also mentioned before this Court to take up the matter by giving the reason as given by Mr. H. Debendra, the learned Dy. AG.

[6] Accepting the request made by the counsel, the Acting Chief Justice has directed to take up the matter at 06:00 A.M. Accordingly, this Bench has taken up the matter today by 06:00 A.M. as an unlisted matter taking into consideration the nature and urgency involved in the case.

[7] We have heard Mr. M. Hemchandra, learned senior counsel for the petitioner; Mr. H. Debendra, learned Dy. AG appearing for the respondents No. 1,2,3,4,5,6 and 10; Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI for the respondents No. 7,8 and 9 in detail.

[8] Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI represented that the Central Government has deployed additional 114 Company of Central Armed Police

Forces and 126 Column of Army and Assam Rifles as on 22.05.2023 at the request and disposal of the State Government.

[9] Taking into consideration the potentiality of aggravating the already volatile law and order situation and the possibility of igniting a fresh wave of violence and bloodshed due to the gathering of a large mob from both the communities at the land in question, we are of the considered view that it will be in the public interest to issue the following directions as an interim measure to prevent any unwanted incident :-

- (i) The State Government and the Central Government and their law enforcing agencies/personnel as well as the public belonging to both the communities are directed to maintain status quo ante of the land in question till the next date.
- (ii) The respondents No. 1-10 are hereby directed to take appropriate effective steps to control the law and order problem in and around of the land in question.
- (iii) The Central Government and the State Government along with the respondents No. 11 and 12 and any aggrieved parties are directed to make an effort to make amicable settlement in this matter. The private respondents and all the representatives of the Kuki-Zo community are also given liberty to apply to the official respondents for

allotment of land for the purpose of burial within a period of 1 (one) week.

[10] Issue notice to respondent Nos. 11 & 12. The petitioner is directed to take notice by way of speed post immediately returnable by 09.08.2023.

[11] The Registry is directed to issue copy of this order today itself to the respondent Nos. 1-10. The Director General of Police is directed to serve this order to both the respondent Nos. 11 & 12 and other persons.

[12] Post the matter on 09.08.2023.

Sushil

JUDGE

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE