



SAKET GOKHALE

NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON, ALL INDIA TRINAMOOL CONGRESS

3rd July, 2022

To,
Sh K.K. Venugopal,
Hon'ble Attorney General for India

Consent Request for Initiating Criminal Contempt of Court Proceedings

Sir,

This letter seeks your kind consideration and sanction for initiating contempt proceedings against the web portal OplIndia and its editor Nupur J Sharma for publishing tweets and articles that not only cast aspersions in the minds of people on the integrity of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India but also attempt to scandalize the nation's highest judiciary.

The details of the case are as follows:

1. On 01.07.2022, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through a bench comprising Hon'ble Justice Surya Kant and Hon'ble Justice J.B. Pardiwala made some scathing oral observations while hearing the petition of ex-BJP Spokesperson Nupur Sharma who has been accused of hurting religious sentiments en-masse and for causing enmity between communities. The Hon'ble Bench was hearing a petition by the accused seeking clubbing of FIRs against her. In their observations, the Hon'ble Bench heavily criticized the actions of the accused and made some scathing observations
2. Subsequently, online web portal OplIndia published a tweet on 01.07.2022 at 12:27pm on their official verified Twitter handle @OplIndia_com which said that

“Supreme Court speaks like Islamists, conducts a witch trial blaming Nupur Sharma’s ‘loose tongue’ for Hindu man’s beheading by Islamic fanatics”

This tweet was accompanied by an article which said **“Supreme Court follows Sharia?”** and contained statements like:

(a) *The Supreme Court of the so-called secular, democratic country, which is supposed to be the conscience of the nation, has shockingly chosen to behave like a Church figure in a medieval witch trial*

(b) *Justice Surya Kant made it clear that for him, it is Sharma's fault that she spoke in a manner that 'provoked' the Islamists, not the Islamists' fault who have declared openly to behead anyone who they deem as 'blasphemous'.*

(c) *the Supreme Court of India today declared Nupur Sharma a culprit of blasphemy and essentially validated the Islamic calls for her beheading and murder. They just stopped short of using the words "Gustakh-e-Nabi ki ek hi saza, sar tan se juda'.*

A screenshot of the tweet and a copy of the article along with their respective links is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE P-1.

3. The same Twitter verified Twitter handle of OplIndia posted another tweet on 01.07.2022 at 01:53pm which said that:

"Dear Milords, did you provoke the Islamists too with your 'loose tongues'

The said tweet was accompanied by an article which said things like:

(a) *The Judiciary, in its infinite wisdom, needs to decide if they wish to be Islamic clerics or maintain natural justice while dispensing cases*

(b) *(The Supreme Court) also, much like the Islamists who blame women for their loose conduct to justify their stoning, blamed Nupur Sharma for her "loose tongue" for the sectarian chaos that had transpired in the country recently*

(c) *With its comments, the Supreme Court has insinuated that it was legitimate for the Islamists to go on a beheading spree if comments, any comments, hurt their sentiments, thereby, ratifying the justification given by the murderers*

(d) *(The Supreme Court) should perhaps introspect and wonder if their "loose tongues" are to be blamed for their judges being threatened after certain verdicts.*

A screenshot of the tweet and a copy of the article along with their respective links is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE P-2.

4. From the tweets and articles pointed out above, may it be noted that OPIIndia and its editor Nupur J Sharma have:

- (a) Said that the Supreme Court “spoke like Islamists”
- (b) Said that the Supreme Court of India has chosen to behave like a Church figure in a medieval witch trial
- (c) Falsely and maliciously insinuated that Hon’ble Justice Surya Kant inferred that terrorists who have declared openly to behead anyone who they deem as ‘blasphemous’ are innocent and not at fault
- (d) Falsely and maliciously insinuated that the Supreme Court “validated the Islamic calls for beheading and murder and just stopped short of using the words “Gustakh-e-Nabi ki ek hi saza, sar tan se juda.””
- (e) Disparagingly and contemptuously insulted the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India and said that the Hon’ble Justices have “loose tongues” by saying that “Dear Milords, did you provoke the Islamists too with your ‘loose tongues’”
- (f) Said “The Judiciary, in its infinite wisdom, needs to decide if they wish to be Islamic clerics” based on the oral observations of the Hon’ble Supreme Court
- (g) Said “(The Supreme Court) are much like the Islamists who blame women for their loose conduct”
- (h) Falsely and maliciously distorted the observations of the Hon’ble Supreme Court and said that “the Supreme Court has insinuated that it was legitimate for the Islamists to go on a beheading spree if comments, any comments, hurt their sentiments” thereby scandalizing people and evoking negative and insulting feelings in the minds of people about the Hon’ble Supreme Court
- (i) Shockingly and contemptuously referred to the observations of the Hon’ble Supreme Court as “Judges speaking with loose tongues” and also claimed that “this is what leads to threats against judges” through the statement “(The Supreme Court) should perhaps introspect and wonder if their “loose tongues” are to be blamed for their judges being threatened after certain verdicts”

The above-mentioned tweets of OplIndia and statements from the articles published by them and written by their editor Nupur J Sharma clearly scandalize and lower the authority of the Supreme Court of India in the minds of ordinary Indians and casts grave, false, and malicious aspersions on the oral observations made by the respective Division Bench of the Supreme Court of India.

The above-mentioned offenses are clearly punishable as “criminal contempt of court” u/s 2(b)(i) of The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

This letter, therefore, humbly and urgently seeks your kind consideration, consent, and sanction u/s 15 (b) of The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 for the undersigned to proceed with initiating contempt of court proceedings against the accused OplIndia website and its editor Nupur J Sharma.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



**Saket S Gokhale,
National Spokesperson,
All India Trinamool Congress**

Address: 61 South Avenue New Delhi 110011

Phone [REDACTED]

Email: contact_sa_etgo_ae.n

ANNEXURE P-1

← **Tweet**

 **OpIndia.com** 
@OpIndia_com

Supreme Court speaks like Islamists, conducts a witch trial blaming Nupur Sharma's 'loose tongue' for Hindu man's beheading by Islamic fanatics



opindia.com
Supreme Court followed Sharia? SC blames Nupur Sharma for murder and violence co...
The SC has not stopped at just blaming one woman for violence and murder committed by religious fanatics in the name of Islam, it has also refused to grant any relief to ...

12:27 PM · Jul 1, 2022 · TweetDeck

1,108 Retweets **131** Quote Tweets **2,351** Likes

Tweet link: https://twitter.com/OplIndia_com/status/1542764269535502337?s=20&t=gZw89ZMUKD2h-Y77b74pcA

Archived link to tweet: <https://archive.is/88Pxw>

SC Judges end up emboldening Islamists, conducts a witch trial blaming Nupur Sharma's 'loose tongue' for Hindu man's beheading by Islamic fanatics

1 July, 2022

Editorial Desk



SC has placed all the blame on Nupur Sharma and refused to entertain her application

1089

The Supreme Court of India has blamed former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma for the brutal [Udaipur murder](#) and has stated that her 'loose tongue' has set the entire country on fire and she should apologise to the whole country.

As per reports, Nupur Sharma had moved the SC seeking the transfer of all the FIRs registered against her, across several states to Delhi for further investigation. Sharma, in her application, stated that she is facing constant life threats.

The apex court, surprisingly, had placed all the blame on Nupur Sharma and her 'loose tongue' over the remarks on Prophet Muhammad that were deemed as 'blasphemy' by Islamists. The SC has lambasted Sharma saying that it was her and her 'loose tongue' that has set the entire country on fire and she should apologise to the whole country.

Blaming Nupur Sharma for the chaos unleashed by the Islamists and the regressive ideas that ambiguously declare any criticism of the Islamic prophet as 'blasphemy', the apex court of the country has surprisingly ignored the hatred and violence unleashed by Islamists and has instead blamed the woman who had stated merely what is written in Islamic hadiths, and [affirmed by Islamic scholars](#) all over the world.

The Supreme Court of the so-called secular, democratic country, which is supposed to be the conscience of the nation, has shockingly chosen to behave like a Church figure in a medieval witch trial.

It is notable here that there have been brutal murders in India committed by Islamists in the name of 'blasphemy' against Islam and the SC is aware of that. Also, the comments by Nupur Sharma were in retaliation to insulting and derogatory comments against the Hindu faith by a fellow panellist, and Sharma had cited instances from the Prophet's life, telling that those can be said too (if the other side keeps insulting the Hindu faith with derogatory remarks).

The specific reference to the Prophet's age and the age of his third wife is asserted in Islamic hadiths and is affirmed by Islamic scholars as facts.

The SC has not stopped at just blaming one woman for violence and murder committed by religious fanatics in the name of Islam, it has also refused to grant any relief to Sharma and has rejected her application to transfer all FIRs against her to Delhi.

Live Law  @LiveLawIndia · 40m

Supreme Court says Nupur Sharma's comments are "disturbing". "What is her business to make these remarks?"

Sr Adv Singh says she apologized for remarks and withdrew the comments.

"She should have gone to the TV and apologized to the nation", bench says.

#NupurSharma

19 171 372

Live Law  @LiveLawIndia · 40m

"She was too late to withdraw...and too she withdraws conditionally, saying if sentiments hurt", Supreme Court says on #NupurSharma comments.

#SupremeCourt

3 104 279

SC's statement on Nupur Sharma, screenshot from Live Law

Ignoring the submission by Sharma's advocate that the statements in the news debate were withdrawn by Sharma after an apology, the court questioned her right and need to make those statements. Upon reminding that she had apologised, the Court stated that she should have apologised to the whole country on TV and that she was 'too late' to withdraw.

Live Law  @LiveLawIndia · 30m

"The way she has ignited emotions across the country... This lady is single handedly responsible for what is happening in the country" : Justice Kant.

#NupurSharma #SupremeCourt

81 564 950

SC's statement on Nupur Sharma, screenshot from Live Law

Justice Surya Kant stated, "The way she has ignited emotions across the country... This lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country."

In other words, Justice Surya Kant made it clear that for him, it is Sharma's fault that she spoke in a manner that 'provoked' the Islamists, not the Islamists' fault who have declared openly to behead anyone who they deem as 'blasphemous'.

The apex court even stated that Nupur Sharma does not deserve the relief granted to the common people of the country (by transferring the FIRs to one jurisdiction). It declared that Nupur had no right to say the things she said in the first place, indirectly justifying the open calls for her murder and hanging.



Live Law  @LiveLawIndia · 46m
"The petition smacks of her arrogance, that the Magistrates of the country are too small for her", Supreme Court says on [#NupurSharma](#) petition.

5 118 329

Live Law  @LiveLawIndia · 45m
"If you are a spokesperson of a party, it is not a license to say things like this", Supreme Court says on [#NupurSharma](#) comments.

SC's statement on Nupur Sharma, screenshot from Live Law

In short, the Supreme Court of India today declared Nupur Sharma a culprit of blasphemy and essentially validated the Islamic calls for her beheading and murder. They just stopped short of using the words "Gustakh-e-Nabi ki ek hi saza, sar tan se juda".

Since the Supreme Court has declared that the Udaipur murder, where a Hindu man was killed for just sharing a social media post in Sharma's support, is Sharma's fault, it seems that if Sharma herself becomes a victim of violence that Islamists have declared for her, the Supreme Court of this country might actually say that she deserved it.

Update: The headline of this article has been changed as the said comments by the Judges were not included in the written order by the Supreme Court. However, our criticism of the comments holds and the same has been attributed to the judges as they were oral comments not amounting to the official view of the Court.

ANNEXURE P-2

← **Tweet**



OplIndia.com 
@OplIndia_com

...

Dear Milords, did you provoke the Islamists too with your 'loose tongues'

(Writes [@UnSubtleDesi](#))



opindia.com

SC blames Nupur Sharma's 'loose tongue' for Kanhaiya Lal murder: Would they say sa...
The Supreme Court of India today essentially declared former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma a blasphemer. | OplIndia News

1:53 PM · Jul 1, 2022 · TweetDeck

2,938 Retweets **90** Quote Tweets **6,337** Likes

Tweet link: https://twitter.com/OplIndia_com/status/1542785977751465989?s=20&t=gZw89ZMUKD2h-Y77b74pcA

Archived link to tweet: <https://archive.is/eNlsY>

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Dear Milords, did you provoke the Islamists too with your 'loose tongues'

1 July, 2022

Nupur J Sharma



Dear Milords, did you provoke the Islamists too with your 'loose tongues'

 1083

The Supreme Court of India today essentially declared Nupur Sharma a blasphemer. The same court, which had once proudly proclaimed that dissent is the safety valve of democracy, has today blamed former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and her speech for the brutal beheading of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur by two remorseless Islamists. They also, much like the Islamists who blame women for their loose conduct to justify their stoning, blamed Nupur Sharma for her "loose tongue" for the sectarian chaos that had transpired in the country recently.

In their comments, the venerated Milords also said that Nupur Sharma should apologise to the nation. They mocked with sarcasm when they were told that Nupur Sharma was cooperating with the investigation - 'They must be red carpeting you'.



Thread



LawBeat @LawBeatInd · 10m

BREAKING: #SupremeCourt is hearing plea by **#NupurSharma** asking transfer of FIRs registered against her in many states to be transferred to **#Delhi** for investigation. "The petition shows her arrogance!!" Justice Surya Kant remarks

10 12 27



LawBeat @LawBeatInd · 9m

Justice Surya Kant says "Sometimes power goes into head! People think that I have back up and say anything."

Sr. Adv Maninder Singh appears for Sharma.

#NupurSharma #SupremeCourt

3 7 8



LawBeat @LawBeatInd

Justice Pardiwala says "This statement by **#NupurSharma** is responsible for the unfortunate killing in **#Udaipur**"

#UdaipurHorror

11:10 AM · 01/07/22 · Twitter for Mac

5 Retweets 26 Quote Tweets 6 Likes

The comments by Milords, in their infinite wisdom

"Sometimes power goes into head", the Milord said. "People think that I have backup and say anything", he continued to thunder, shattering the myth that the judiciary would help a woman who was getting death threats and rape threats for merely making some comments on a televised debate show.

As per reports, Nupur Sharma had **moved** the SC seeking the transfer of all the FIRs registered against her, across several states to Delhi for further investigation. Sharma, in her application, stated that she is facing constant life threats. The SC has not stopped at just blaming one woman for violence and murder committed by religious fanatics in the name of Islam, it has also refused to grant any relief to Sharma and has rejected her application to transfer all FIRs against her to Delhi.

The Supreme Court, essentially said that it was owing to Nupur Sharma's "loose tongue" that the Islamists went into a fit of rage, rioted, called for her death, her rape, and beheaded a Hindu man who had supported her. It was her loose tongue. The woman should have known her place. The

SC blames Nupur Sharma's 'loose tongue' for Kanhaiya Lal murder: Would they say same to Karnataka HC judges who got death threats
damn woman should have kept her mouth shut. And now that she displayed the temerity of actually holding an opinion, she needs to be hanged, with the medieval crowds cheering and casting stones at the witch.

The Islamists, interestingly, have offered similar justifications for their calls for violence. They have said that any "Gustakh-e-Nabi" attracts the death penalty - if the courts won't give it, they will. They have reiterated that they are a peaceful people and want to live in harmony, however, if their wishes and sentiments are not respected, then they can legitimately go on a murder spree because that would be protecting the sanctity of their religion, not murder per se. They claim this because for the Islamist, the law of the land means paltry little. They owe their allegiance to their religious law that sanctions the beheading of errant Kafirs.

The Supreme Court, however, is meant to uphold the law of the land and their comments go as far as to legitimise the street veto of the Islamists. With its comments, the Supreme Court has insinuated that it was legitimate for the Islamists to go on a beheading spree if comments, any comments, hurt their sentiments, thereby, ratifying the justification given by the murderers.

Since the Supreme Court seems to be convinced that Nupur Sharma's "loose tongue" is responsible for the barbarity heaped on Kanhaiya Lal, they should perhaps introspect and wonder if their "loose tongues" are to be blamed for their judges being threatened after certain verdicts.

In March 2020, Judges of the Karnataka High Court, who had delivered the Hijab verdict, were issued threats and two Islamists were arrested for it. While Kovai Rahamathulla was arrested from Tirunelveli, S. Jamal Mohammad Usmani was taken into custody from Thanjavur. Both the arrests took place on Saturday night. The accused are office bearers of the Tamil Nadu Towheed Jamaat (TNTJ).

According to a Business Standard report, "A video of the accused Kovai Rahamathulla went viral where he allegedly instigates violence against the Karnataka judges. In his speech, the accused mentions a district judge in Jharkhand being mowed down last year while the latter was out on a morning walk. He even stated that people know where the Chief Justice of Karnataka goes to walk in the morning".

Based on this, the accused was arrested.

Given the logic employed by the Supreme Court today in Nupur Sharma's verdict, the Supreme Court must ask its own High Court Judges whether they agree with the contention that it was their "loose tongue" that "provoked" the Islamists to call for the murder of the judges. Clearly, what is good for the goose has to be good for the gander - or are a different set of standards supposed to be employed for average citizens and Milords, who we look upon when we need protection?

Would the Supreme Court ask the Karnataka High Court judges to apologise to the nation because the judgement inspired the Islamists to ask for their murder? Would the Supreme Court blame the Judge's "loose tongue" for the chaos by Islamists that followed their verdict? Would the Supreme Court ask the HC judges to apologise to the nation? If it indeed is the Judge's "loose tongue" that should be blamed, why were they given Y category security? And if they were given security, why did Nupur Sharma deserve the snark and the abhorrent comments stripping her of her dignity and fundamental right to free speech?

More recently, the judge who ordered the survey of the disputed structure called Gyanvapi mosque, received a threatening letter by Islamists. The letter was sent by Islamic Aaghaz Movement and accused the judge of also going 'saffron' in the times of 'hateful politics' in India. Calling him 'kafir'

and 'idol worshiper', the Islamist group claimed that no Muslim can expect fairness from a 'saffronised' judge. The letter further accused him of siding with 'extremist Hindus' and under pressure from the Gujarati Prime Minister will declare Mughals as looters. Would the Supreme Court judges who made these remarks against Nupur Sharma blame the judge in this case and say that he got threats due to his "loose tongue"? The judge had **expressed** his anguish saying that an atmosphere of fear was being created – would the Supreme Court judges ask him to apologise to the nation?

Would the Supreme Court hold itself responsible if Islamists go on a rampage and harm the Ram Mandir being constructed at Ayodhya, given that despite the SC order, the Islamists have been threatening to bring the temple down to restore the illegal Babri Masjid structure? If Nupur Sharma meets the same fate as Kanhaiya Lal, would the Supreme Court hold its "loose tongue" responsible and "apologise to the nation"? Would it concede that "Sometimes the power goes into the head. People think that I have backup and say anything"? Would it?

The Judiciary, in its infinite wisdom, needs to decide if they wish to be Islamic clerics or maintain natural justice while dispensing cases. Today, it can be respectfully, but safely concluded, that the Judiciary has certainly not painted itself in glory with the insidious remarks made as Nupur Sharma was thrown to the Islamist wolves.