

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT**

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE V.G.ARUN

Friday, the 17th day of June 2022 / 27th Jyaishta, 1944
WP(C) NO. 15389 OF 2022

PETITIONER:

**RAVEENDRAN A., AGED 62 YEARS,S/O ARJUNAN CHETTIAR,PRESENTLY RESIDING
AT POORAM HOUSE, CTRA -120B,THOPPIL LANE, KIZHVILOM P.O, MAMOM,
ATTINGAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 671541**

RESPONDENT:

- 1. UNION OF INDIA, REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, 4095, B WING, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU BHAWAN, 23-D, JANPATH, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110011**
- 2. THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, TRANSPORT BHAVAN, NEW DELHI, PIN - 110001**
- 3. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHIPPING, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 9TH FLOOR, BETA BUILDING, I-THINK TECHNO CAMPUS, KANJURMARG EAST, MUMBAI, PIN - 400002**
- 4. M/S SINASTA MARITIME PVT. LTD. HAVING ITS OFFICE AT GB 30, GROUND FLOOR, HIGHLAND CORPORATE CENTRE, KAPURBAWADI, THANE, PIN - 400607 MAHARASHTRA.**
- 5. ADDL.R5. RAJIV GANDHI CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY (RGCB), THYCAUD POST, POOJAPPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 014, REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR.**
- 6. ADDL.R6. THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 011, REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL [ADDITIONAL R5 & R6 ARE IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 17.06.2022 IN I.A.3/2022 IN WP(C)15389/2022.]**
- 7. ADDL.R7. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VELLAYAMBALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 010. [ADDL.R7. IS SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 17.06.2022 IN WP(C)15389/2022.]**

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct the 1st respondent to consider Exhibit P4 representation pending disposal of the above Writ Petition (Civil), to meet the ends of justice.

This petition again coming on for orders upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C) and this courts order dated 10.06.2022 and upon hearing the arguments of M.S.AMAL DHARSAN, THUSHARA JAMES Advocates for the petitioner and of ASSISTANT SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA for Respondent 1 to 3, the court passed the following:

V.G.ARUN, J.

W.P(C).No. 15389 of 2022

Dated this the 17th day of June, 2022

O R D E R

The petitioner's son, Arjun Raveendran, while working as a Seaman on board the Merchant Vessel 'MV Efficiency OL', went missing on 27.4.2022, while the ship was anchored at Sfax Port in Tunisia. Some days later, the Tunisian Authorities found a dead body off the coast of Skhira, about 90 km away from the Sfax Port. On conducting DNA test, the body was identified as that of Arjun Raveendran. At the intervention of the Government of India through its Diplomatic channel, the Tunisian authorities agreed to repatriate the body to India.

2. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that, as per information received, the body will reach Trivandrum Airport on 19.6.2022. It is submitted that, the conversation which the petitioner had with Arjun Raveendran before the unfortunate incident, raises strong suspicion that the petitioner's son was tortured by his superior officer and the death itself could be a homicide. It is hence requested that, after the body reaches Trivandrum Airport, post mortem and DNA test should be conducted.

3. Having heard learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Assistant Solicitor General, I find the request for post mortem and DNA test to be well founded. In the nature of the nature of the order being passed, the Director General of Police, State Police Headquarters, Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram, PIN – 695 010 is *suo motu* impleaded as the additional 7th respondent.

4. The competent officer of the Government of India is directed to inform the additional 7th respondent or any other superior Police Officer about the arrival of the body at the Trivandrum Airport. Thereupon, necessary arrangements shall be made by the officials at the Airport, along with the Police, to transport the body to the Medical College Hospital, Trivandrum. Once the body reaches at the Medical College Hospital, information in that regard shall be given to the Director, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB). Thereafter, the post mortem and DNA test shall be conducted following due procedure.

Post after one week.

H/O

Sd/-
V.G.ARUN, JUDGE

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