

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN
&
THE HONOURABLE MRS. JUSTICE M.B. SNEHALATHA**

Friday, the 21st day of November 2025 / 30th Karthika, 1947
WP(CRL.) NO. 1421 OF 2025(S)

PETITIONER:

SANTON LAMA, AGED 38 YEARS, (AADHAR CARD NO. 7115 5502 6140),
S/O MR. SURAJ LAMA, NO. 9/4, SAIDHAM, BILESHIVALE,
HANUMANTHA NAGAR, DODDAGUBBI POST, BENGALURU, PIN - 560 077.

RESPONDENTS:

1. STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
 2. ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY, IN CHARGE OF HOME DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695 001.
 3. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, KERALA POLICE HEADQUARTERS, TRIVANDRUM, PIN - 695 010
 4. THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, KOCHI CITY, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 018.
 5. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, THRIKKAKARA POLICE STATION, THRIKKAKARA, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682 021.
 6. THE STATION HOUSE OFFICER, NEDUMBASSERY POLICE STATION, CIAL, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683 111.
 7. COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LTD (CIAL), REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEDUMBASSERY, COCHIN, PIN - 683 111.
 8. THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL, KALAMASSERY, ERNAKULAM, PIN - 683 104.
- ADDITIONAL R9 & R10 IMPEADED**
9. THE DIG, THE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT (AHTU), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM RANGE, POLICE HEAD QUARTERS, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 010.
 10. THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 001. ADDL.R9 & R10 ARE SUO MOTU IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 11/11/2025 IN WP(CRL.) 1421/2025.

P.T.O.

Writ petition (criminal) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(CrL.) the High Court be pleased to direct the respondents 1-6 to produce Mr.Suraj Lama, the missing person in Ext P5 FIR and who was in custody of 5th respondent as evident from Ext P7 photograph before this Honourable Court.

This petition coming again on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(CrL.), this Court's order dated 17/11/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of SMT. A.PARVATHI MENON, Advocate for the petitioner, SRI. SUNIL NATH N.B., PUBLIC PROSECUTOR for R1 to R6 & R8, Addl.R9 & Addl.R10 and of SRI. S.SUJIN, Advocate for R7, the court passed the following:

P.T.O.



DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN & M.B. SNEHALATHA, JJ.

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Dated this the 21st day of November, 2025

ORDER

Devan Ramachandran, J.

The "alleged detainee" still remains out of sight, says the learned Government Pleader.

2. This is not the first case where we have seen, in this jurisdiction, citizens vanishing without a trace. In many of these matters, including this, we hortatively believe that the "alleged detainee" is still available and perhaps doing well; but who is oblivious to his own identity on account of factors beyond his control.

3. We are aware that a Special Team is investigating the matter and that the petitioner is also involved under our orders.

4. However, since, as said above, we have a lurking suspicion that the "alleged detainee" may be still available very close by; but remaining untraced only because he is unable to express himself, we are of the view that information about him, with his photograph, must be circulated to every

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citizen, as possible. We are not sure if there is any such mechanism either with the Police or with any other agency. If not, we certainly recommend such to the extent to which it is feasible because, in cases like this, if citizens get information about the "detenue" or the "missing person," it would certainly be available to the Police to act swiftly and without wasting precious time, particularly the "golden periods".

5. Sri.Sunil Nath N.B learned Government Pleader, submitted that he will obtain specific instructions from the Police and the other Authorities on this and revert to this Court. He assured us that their persistent effort to find the "alleged detenue" is still on and that the Police are hopeful of obtaining some breakthrough soon because, there have been information gathered about this individual eating at certain shops and interacting with people; but which remain still unverified.

6. Smt.A.Parvathi Menon learned Counsel for the petitioner, supplemented the afore, saying that, her client is also making his own efforts to find his father. She told us about the strain and the struggle that the petitioner is going

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through; and certainly, our empathy is with him. We can assure him that this Court will not rest until we are able to trace the father.

List this matter therefore, on 01.12.2025.

**Sd/-
DEVAN RAMACHANDRAN,
JUDGE**

**Sd/-
M.B. SNEHALATHA,
JUDGE**

Mms

