

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 1252/2023

ACID SURVIVORS SAAHAS FOUNDATION (NGO) Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS. Respondent(s)

IA No. 120095/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 108821/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 87474/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 188425/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 03-02-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. Kaveeta Wadia, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Shashank Tripathi, AOR
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Mr. Dipesw Dwivedi, Adv.
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Mr. Aditya Kishor Tyagi, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
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Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv.
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Ms. Richa Verma, Adv.

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Ms. Purvat Wali, Adv.
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Ms. Disha Singh , AOR
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Mr. Prang Newmai, Adv.
Ms. Yanmi Phazang, Adv.

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Mr. Kumar Saurav, Adv.

Mr. Harish Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Piyush Beriwal, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Varun Chugh, Adv.
Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.
Shashwat Parihar, Adv.
Mr. Santosh Ramdurg, Adv.
Mr. Yogesh Vats, Adv.
Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR

Ms. Rashmi Nandakumar, AOR
Ms. Yashmita Pandey, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Learned senior counsel for the petitioner submitted that the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh and Union Territories of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Puducherry have not filed their affidavits with regard to issues which arise in this writ petition.

Ms. Rashmi Nanda Kumar, learned counsel for the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has filed a Status Report dated 02.02.2026 on behalf of the NALSA in response to our earlier order date 03.12.2025 indicating details with regard to status of the applications made by the victims of acid attack for seeking victim compensation before the Legal Services Authorities of the respective districts in the respective States and consideration and disposal of those applications and the reasons as to why some of the applications were rejected or are kept pending.

She further submitted that she would make a comprehensive chart regarding the applications filed and which are pending, after seeking details from the State/Union Territory/District Legal Services Authority and file a further compilation.

Learned counsel for the NALSA also submitted that States/Union Territories are not releasing the funds to the

State Legal Services Authority for onward disbursement of the said funds to the victims of the acid attack. Consequently, even if an order for disbursement is made by the State / Union Territory / District Legal Services Authority, no funds are available for disbursement. Therefore, a direction may be issued to the respective States/Union Territories to release funds to the State Legal Services Authority for the applications which have been approved by the District Legal Services Authority etc.

Taking note of this submission, we direct as under:

Firstly the States/Union Territories to set apart/disburse the funds to the State Legal Services Authorities for the aforesaid purpose.

Secondly, the Secretary of the respective States/Union Territories, Social Welfare Department shall file the necessary affidavit with regard to the amounts that have already been disbursed and are to be disbursed for the current Financial Year 2025-2026 and previous years, i.e., from 2021-22 onwards.

Thirdly, wherever approval has been granted for payment of victim compensation to the victims of the acid attack and communication has been sent by the State/Union Territory/District Legal Services Authority to the respective departments of the State Government, steps shall be taken for releasing the outstanding amounts to the victims, whose applications have been cleared. The said exercise shall be carried out on or before 10.03.2026 and an affidavit in that

regard shall be filed.

On hearing learned senior counsel for the petitioner, we direct the Member Secretary, NALSA to issue appropriate directions to the Member Secretaries of the State Legal Services Authorities / Union Territory Legal Services Authorities for onward transmission to the District and Taluk level authorities with regard to receiving the applications from victims of acid attack to consider the same expeditiously without insisting on court orders, unless necessary.

A similar direction shall also ensue to the Member Secretaries of the Union Territories Legal Services Authority.

List on 17.03.2026.

(NEETU SACHDEVA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(DIVYA BABBAR)
COURT MASTER (NSH)