

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION CJ-LD-VC NO.19 OF 2020

Geeta Seshu & Ors.Petitioners
V/S
Commissioner of Police & Ors.Respondents

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Mr. Mihir Desai, Senior Advocate with Mr. Aditi Saxena for the Petitioners.
Mr. A.A. Kumbhakoni, Advocate General a/w with Ms. P.H. Kantharia,
Government Pleader, Mr. Himanshu Takke, AGP for Respondent/State.

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**CORAM : A.A. SAYED &
M.S. KARNIK, JJ.**
DATE : 10 JULY 2020.

P.C.:

1 The above Petition has been filed to quash and set aside the order date 23 May 2020 issued by the Deputy Commissionere of Police (Operations) and Executive Magistrate, under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 interalia prohibiting any persons or group of persons from dissemination of information through various messaging and social media platforms like WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook and Tik-Tok, Instagram etc. found to be incorrect and holding the persons designated as "Admin" personally responsible.

2 In the Affidavit-in-Reply filed by the Deputy Commissionere of Police (Operations) in the present PIL in para 2 it is stated that the said order

dated 23 May 2020 under section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 was to remain in force till 8 June 2020 and by efflux of time the said order has come to an end. It is further stated in the Affidavit-in-Reply that after 8 June 2020 no prohibitory order has been issued.

3 In light of the above, we are now not inclined to entertain the PIL. The PIL is accordingly dismissed. It would be open for the Petitioner to file a fresh PIL in the event such prohibitory order is issued in future. The issue of validity of such order is kept open.

4 This order will be digitally signed by the Personal Assistant of this Court. All concerned will act on production by fax or email of a digitally signed copy of this order.

(M.S. KARNIK, J.)

(A.A. SAYED, J.)

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