IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

[S.C.R., Order XXI Rule 3 (1) (a)]

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) _____ OF 2020

(Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India)

(Arising out of impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL)

No. 53 of 2020)

(WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELEIF)

| IN THE MATTER OF: | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------|
| Ganga Giri Goswami | | Petitioner |
| | Versus | |
| Union of India & Anr. | | Respondents |

(FOR INDEX, PLEASE SEE INSIDE)

Filed on: 22.4.2020

| INDEX | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| SI. | Particulars of the | Page No. of Part to Remarks | | Remarks |
| No. | Document | which it belongs | | |
| | | Part I | Part II | |
| (i) | (ii) | (iii) | (iv) | (v) |
| 1. | Office Report on | | | |
| | Limitation | | | |
| 2. | Listing Proforma | | | |
| 3. | Cover Page of Paper Book | | | |
| 4. | Index of Record of | | | |
| | Proceedings | | | |
| 5. | Limitation Report | | | |
| | prepared by the Registry | | | |
| 6. | Defect List | | | |
| 7. | Note Sheet | | | |
| 8. | Synopsis & List of Dates | B-N | | |
| 9. | True copy of the | 1-6 | | |
| | impugned final order | | | |
| | dated 20.4.2020 passed | | | |
| | by the Hon'ble High Court | | | |
| | of Uttarakhand at Nainital | | | |
| | in Writ Petition (PIL) No. | | | |
| | 53 of 2020. | | | |

| 10. | Special Leave Petition | 7-15 | |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|--|
| | with Affidavit. | | |
| 11. | Appendix: | 16 | |
| | Article 21 of Constitution | | |
| | of India. | | |
| 12. | Annexure P- 1 | 17-20 | |
| | True copy of news article | | |
| | dated 1.4.2020 titled | | |
| | "Hundreds of Nepalese | | |
| | stuck at India border amid | | |
| | COVID-19 lockdown" | | |
| | published by Aljazeera. | | |
| 13. | Annexure P-2 | 21-27 | |
| | True translated copy of | | |
| | judgment dated 7.4.2020 | | |
| | passed by the Hon'ble | | |
| | Supreme Court of Nepal in | | |
| | 076 - WO- 0932 and 076 - | | |
| | WO – 0935. | | |
| 14. | Annexure P-3 | 28 | |
| | True copy of the order | | |
| | dated 13.4.2020 passed | | |
| | by this Hon'ble Court in | | |
| | | | |

| | W.P. (C) with Diary No. | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|--|
| | 10865/2020 | | |
| 15. | Annexure P-4 | 29-44 | |
| | True copy of the W.P. | | |
| | (PIL) 53 of 2020 dated | | |
| | 17.4.2020 filed by the | | |
| | Petitioner before the | | |
| | Hon'ble High Court of | | |
| | Uttarakhand at Nainital. | | |
| 16. | F/M | | |
| 17. | Vakalatnama | | |
| 18. | Memo of Parties | | |

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA [S.C.R., Order XXI Rule 3 (1) (a)]

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) _____ OF 2020

(Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India)

(Arising out of impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL)

No. 53 of 2020)

(WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELEIF)

| IN THE MATTER OF: | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------|
| Ganga Giri Goswami | | Petitioner |
| | Versus | |
| Union of India & Anr. | | Respondents |

OFFICE REPORT ON LIMITATION

1. The petition is within time.

BRANCH OFFICER

Place: New Delhi

Date: 22.4.2020

PROFORMA FOR FIRST LISTING

| SECT | TON | | |
|---|-------|--|--|
| The case pertains to (Please tick/check the correct box): | | | |
| Central Act: Constitution of India, 1950 | | | |
| Section: Articles 14 and 21 | | | |
| Central rule: | N.A. | | |
| Rule no(s): | N.A. | | |
| State Act: | N.A. | | |
| Section: | N.A. | | |
| State Rule: | N.A. | | |
| ☐ Impugned Interim Order date: | N.A. | | |
| Impugned Final Order/Decree Date: 20.4.2020 | | | |
| High court name: High Court of Uttarakhand at Nai | nital | | |
| Name of Judges: Hon'ble Justice Manoj K. Tiwari and Hon'ble Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma | | | |
| Tribunal/Authority(Name): | N.A. | | |
| 1. Nature of matter: Civil Criminal | | | |
| 2. (a) Petitioner/Appellant No.1: Ganga Giri Goswami | | | |
| (b) E-mail ID: gangagirigoswami@gmail.com | | | |
| (c) Mobile Phone Number: 9897729656 | | | |
| 3. (a) Respondent No.1: Union of India | | | |
| (b) E-mail ID: | N.A. | | |
| (c) Mobile Phone Number: | N.A. | | |
| 4. (a) Main category classification: | N.A. | | |

| (b) Sub classification: | N.A. |
|---|-------------------------|
| 5. Not to be listed before: | N.A. |
| 6. Similar/Pending matter: | N.A. |
| a. Similar disposed of matter with citatio details: No similar matter is disposed | |
| b. Similar pending matter with case deta pending. | ils: No similar case is |
| 7. Criminal matters: | |
| a. Whether accused/convict has surrendere | ed: Yes No |
| b. FIR No.: N.A. Date: | N.A. |
| c. Police Station: | N.A. |
| d. Sentence Awarded: | N.A. |
| e. Sentence Undergone: | N.A. |
| 8. Land Acquisition Matters: | |
| a. Date of section 4 notification: | N.A. |
| b. Date of section 6 notification: | N.A. |
| c. Date of section 17 notification: | N.A. |
| 9. Tax Matters: State the tax effect: | N.A. |
| 10. Special Category (first petitioner/appellan | t only): |
| Senior citizen > 65 years SC/ST | Woman/Child |
| Disabled Legal Aid case | In custody |
| 11. Vehicle No.(In case of Motor Accident Clair | m matters): N.A. |
| Date: 22.4.2020 | |
| | (Satya Mitra) |
| | AOR for Petitioner |
| | Registration No. 1852 |

E-mail id: satyamitra2003@gmail.com

SYNOSPSIS

This petition impugns the final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the 1. Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 53 of 2020, whereby the High Court wrongfully refused to grant relief to the 1700 Nepalese migrant workers stranded at the India-Nepal border in Pithoragarh and Champawat districts in the State of Uttarakhand, who wish to return to Nepal. The High Court held that the Nepalese migrant workers could not be repatriated to Nepal purportedly since Nepal Government had declared a national lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID -19, "coronavirus", and no one was being permitted to cross the Nepal border. The High Court thus erred in failing to appreciate the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020, which clearly directed the Government of Nepal to allow Nepalese citizens stranded on the Indian side of the border to cross the border and enter into Nepal. This order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020 was presented before the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in W.P. (PIL) No. 53 of 2020, but does not find any mention in the impugned order. This petition is being filed seeking relief for the 1700 Nepalese citizens stranded at the India-Nepal order and for a direction to the Respondents to allow these persons to cross the border and enter into Nepal to return home.

Facts

- 2. In the last few weeks, the world has witnessed the spread of a communicable respiratory disease called the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China in December 2019. On 11th March 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 as a pandemic after noting that COVID-19 has increased 13-fold in countries other than China. Some State Governments have also declared COVID-19 an epidemic, in order to invoke the emergency provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Currently, over 110 countries have detected persons suffering from COVID-19 in their territories.
- 3. The Government of India and the respective State Governments have also issued several advisories to the citizens, regarding the prevention of the further spread of the COVID-19 virus. One of the suggestions made by the Government of India is to maintain social distancing, which is considered to be the most effective way of stopping the contagion of COVID-19 virus. On 23.3.2020, the Government of India announced a nation-wide "lockdown" for 21 days, up till 15.4.2020. This meant closing down of public transport, offices, schools and colleges, and all other public spaces, leaving out only essential services to be continue during this 21-day long lockdown. The

extension of the lockdown was announced on 14.4.2020, up till 3.5.2020.

Thousands of Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand

- 4. On 23.3.2020, the Government of Nepal declared a lockdown and closed its borders. This lockdown has been extended till 27.4.2020, and is likely to be extended further. Several Nepalese citizens work in India, and many of them as low wage labourers. After the announcement of the lockdown by the national Governments of India and Nepal, more than 1500 such Nepalese workers in India attempted to go home to Nepal, and were prevented from entering Nepal at the Entry Points at Dharchula and Jhulaghat in Uttarakhand. Therefore, thousands of persons are stranded in Uttarakhand without food, water, shelter or any other basic life necessity.
- 5. Due to the lockdown, most of the workers have lost their jobs and have no savings to subsist themselves. Without access to shelter at night, proper sanitation and regular food, the lives of thousands of persons is at grave risk.
- 6. The living conditions of the stranded workers are uninhabitable and they don't have access to basic sanitation and health facilities or even

food and drinking water. This poses a risk to the health and lives of the stranded workers as well as of the public at large.

- 7. Workers in Jhulaghat, demonstrated against the Nepal government on 30.03.2020 demanding that they should be allowed to go back to their homes. Four migrant workers, extremely distressed and unsettled, jumped in Kali river, out of which 3 managed to cross the river and reached Nepal and one had to return back to India. Most of the workers who were there near Tanakpur border in Champawat District, infiltrated the border by crossing forests and river, risking their lives to reach home. 11 more impoverished Nepalese migrant workers on 13.04.2020 jumped in Kali river depicting the level of distress and panic amongst Nepalese migrant workers, forcing them to put their lives at risk in order to reach home.
- 8. Since the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital was not functioning due to the lockdown, the Petitioner in the present case approached this Hon'ble Court on 7.4.2020 in W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand with food security and basic health and sanitation provisions for the duration of the national lockdown, and also to ensure safe passage of the workers to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

- 9. This Hon'ble Court vide order dated 13.4.2020 allowed the Petitioner to withdraw the W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 and to approach the High Court, and further directed the Hon'ble High Court to dispose off the matter expeditiously.
- 10. Thus, subsequently, the Petitioner approached the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in W.P. (PIL) No. 53 of 2020, on 17.4.2020. The Hon'ble High Court vide the impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 disposed off the PIL without granting any relief, wrongly holding that the Nepalese migrant workers could not be allowed to cross the border and return to Nepal.
- 11. The relevant portions of the impugned order are as follows:
 - "6. Prayer no. (i) made in the writ petition cannot be granted as no direction can be issued to the Central Government to expedite repatriation of the Nepali citizens through diplomatic channels, as issuance of such a direction would amount to encroachment in the field reserved for the Union Government. Even otherwise also, petitioner himself admits that, in view of the pandemic caused by Covid-19 virus, Nepal Government has also declared a nationwide lockdown and no-one is permitted to cross Nepal border."

Order of the Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020

- 12. On 7.4.2020, the Supreme Court of Nepal passed an order in case no. 076-WO-0932 and 076-WO-0935, ordering that Nepalese persons who are stuck in India at the India-Nepal border to be allowed to enter Nepal.
- 13. The relevant portions of the order of the Supreme Court of Nepal are as follows:

"...Case No. 076-WO-0932 is related to the COVID -19 pandemic and situation resulting from it which is taken as a reason for restraining Nepalese Citizens from entering into Nepal by the Government of Nepal without the laws granting any legal authority for the same, therefore Nepalese citizens present in foreign country should be allowed to enter their country voluntarily and for those citizens desiring to enter into Nepal, but have not been so able, provide for these citizens immediate evacuation as claimed through the application of Interim Order. Similarly, in Case No. 076-Wo-093, a writ was preferred for 700 Nepalese stranded in India's territory of Dharchula area, across the river Mahakali River of Darchula District of Nepal and the Government of Nepal has prohibited them from entering into territory of Nepal, thus for Nepalese citizens stranded across the Mahakali River and in Indian

territory should not be prohibited from entering into Nepal, and they be brought into Nepal...

As per Article 5 of the Constitution of Nepal, it is the duty of the government to protect the right of Nepalese citizens. Wherever the Nepalese citizens may be residing, it becomes the responsibility of the government to prevent and protect them from hunger and death arising from any diseases, and the government cannot abscond from this duty....

In accordance to Article 133 of Constitution of Nepal, the government is directed as follows. The respondent be made informed of the order:

- ... 3. Nepalese citizens who are at the Nepal India border and want to come into Nepal, provisions be made for them to, be brought into Nepal, be kept, for a definite period in quarantine..."
- 14. This order of the Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020 was presented before the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in W.P. (PIL) 53 of 2020. However, it does not find mention anywhere in the impugned order. Thus, it is clear that the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital erred in passing the impugned order and holding that the Nepalese migrant workers could not be repatriated to Nepal, since the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal has already

ordered clear directions to the Government of Nepal to allow Nepalese citizens stranded at the India-Nepal border to cross the border and enter into Nepal.

India's obligations

- 15. India is a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which, in Article 12, requires States to "recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health." Article 12.1 of the ICESCR states that "every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity."
- 16. India has a constitutional duty to honour these internationally recognized Rules and principles. Article 51 of the Constitution, which forms part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, requires the State to endeavour to "foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another.
- 17. The human rights treaties that India has ratified require States Parties to guarantee the rights to equality before the law, equal protection of the law and freedom from discrimination. Article 2 of the ICESCR requires states to ensure that:

"The rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

18. The right to live with dignity has also been enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution of India and accepted as a fundamental right protected under international law. In, *Francis Coralie Mullin* v. *Union Territory of Delhi & Ors.* 1981 SCR (2) 6 this Hon'ble court has held as under:

"The fundamental right to life which is the most precious human right and which forms the ark of all other rights must, therefore, be interpreted in a broad and expansive spirit so as to invest it with significance and vitality which may endure for years to come and enhance the dignity of the individual and the worth of human person ...

Every act which offends against or impairs human dignity would constitute deprivation pro tanto of this right to live."

19. Therefore, in light of these circumstances, the Petitioner in this Public Interest Litigation is seeking a writ of mandamus or any other writ, order, direction in the nature of mandamus directing the Respondents

to bring all the migrant workers to safe and hygienic living facilities and provide them with food security and basic health and sanitation provisions for the duration of the national lockdown and for a writ of mandamus or any other writ, order, direction in the nature of mandamus directing the Respondents to ensure safe passage of the workers to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

LIST OF DATES

| DATE | PARTICULARS |
|-----------|---|
| January- | Spread of COVID-19, "coronavirus", in over 100 |
| March | countries in the world, including India. |
| 23.3.2020 | Government of India announced a 21-day nation- |
| | wide "lockdown", thereby restricting movement of |
| | persons and suspending public transport, |
| | prohibiting access to public places and so on. |
| 23.3.2020 | Government of Nepal announced a lockdown and |
| | closed its borders. |
| 24.3.2020 | Thousands of Nepalese workers who migrated to |
| | India for work were prevented from entering Nepal |
| | from the Entry Points at Dharchula and Jhulaghat, |
| | which are in the state of Uttarakhand. |

| | They have been stranded since then at the Nepal- |
|----------|---|
| | India border without food, water, shelter, health |
| | facilities or sanitation services. |
| 1.4.2020 | News Article titled "Hundreds of Nepalese stuck at |
| | India border amid COVID-19 lockdown" published by |
| | Aljazeera documenting the difficulties being faced by |
| | the Nepalese workers stranded at the Nepal-India |
| | border. |
| | True copy of news article dated 1.4.2020 titled |
| | "Hundreds of Nepalese stuck at India border amid |
| | COVID-19 lockdown" published by Aljazeera is |
| | attached herewith as Annexure P-1 at page no. |
| | |
| | 17 to 20. |
| 7.4.2020 | 17 to 20. W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the |
| 7.4.2020 | |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand with food security |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand with food security and basic health and sanitation provisions for the |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand with food security and basic health and sanitation provisions for the duration of the national lockdown, and also to ensure |
| 7.4.2020 | W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 filed by the present petitioner before this Hon'ble Court seeking directions to the Union of India and State of Uttarakhand to provide the migrant Nepalese workers stranded in Uttarakhand with food security and basic health and sanitation provisions for the duration of the national lockdown, and also to ensure safe passage of the workers to the Federal |

| | WO-0935, ordering that Nepalese persons who are |
|-----------|--|
| | stuck in India at the India-Nepal border to be allowed |
| | to enter Nepal. |
| | True translated copy of judgment dated 7.4.2020 |
| | passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal in |
| | 076 - WO- 0932 and 076 - WO - 0935 is attached |
| | herewith as Annexure P-2 at page no. 21 to 27. |
| 13.4.2020 | This Hon'ble Court allowed the Petitioners to |
| | withdraw W.P. (C) with Diary No. 10865/2020 with |
| | liberty to approach the High Court, and directed the |
| | High Court to dispose off the matter expeditiously. |
| | True copy of the order dated 13.4.2020 passed by |
| | this Hon'ble Court in W.P. (C) with Diary No. |
| | 10865/2020 is attached herewith as Annexure P-3 |
| | at page no. 28. |
| 17.4.2020 | W.P. (PIL) 53 of 2020 filed by the Petitioner before |
| | the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital |
| | seeking directions to the Union of India and State of |
| | Uttarakhand to repatriate Nepalese citizens who |
| | were wishing to return to Nepal, and to provide them |
| | food security, shelter, sanitation and basic medical |
| | facilities until then. |
| | True copy of the W.P. (PIL) 53 of 2020 dated |
| | 17.4.2020 filed by the Petitioner before the Hon'ble |

| | High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital is attached |
|-----------|---|
| | herewith as Annexure P-4 at page no. 29 to 44. |
| 20.4.2020 | Impugned final order passed by Hon'ble High Court |
| | of Uttarakhand at Nainital in W.P. (PIL) 53 of 2020, |
| | disposing off the PIL while declining to grant any of |
| | the reliefs sought. Particularly, the Hon'ble High |
| | Court erred in refusing to repatriate the Nepalese |
| | citizens wishing to go back to Nepal, on the ground |
| | that the Government of Nepal had declared a |
| | lockdown and no one was permitted to cross the |
| | Nepal border. The High Court failed to consider the |
| | order of the Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020 |
| | which directed the Nepal Government to allow its |
| | citizens stranded in India to enter into Nepal. |
| | There are 1473 Nepalese citizens stranded at |
| | Pithoragarh district and 237 Nepalese citizens |
| | stranded at Champawat district in Uttarakhand |
| | wishing to return to Nepal. |
| 22.4.2020 | Hence this petition. |

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

[S.C.R., Order XXI Rule 3 (1) (a)]

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) _____ OF 2020

(Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India)

(Arising out of impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL)

No. 53 of 2020)

(WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELEIF)

IN THE MATTER OF:

| SI. | Between | Position of parties | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| No. | | Before | Before this |
| | | Hon'ble | Hon'ble |
| | | High Court | Court |
| 1. | Ganga Giri Goswami, | Petitioner | Petitioner |
| | ••• | No. 1 | |
| | AND | | |
| 1. | Union of India, | Respondent | Contesting |
| | Through its Secretary, | No. 1 | Respondent |
| | Ministry of Home Affairs, | | |
| | North Block, | | |
| | New Delhi- 110001. | | |

| 2. | State of Uttarakhand, | Respondent | Contesting |
|----|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Through its Chief Secretary, | No. 2 | Respondent |
| | New Building, Uttaranchal | | |
| | Secretariat, Fourth, 4, | | |
| | Subhash Road, Dehradun, | | |
| | Uttarakhand- 248001. | | |

To,
Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, and
His Companion Judges,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi.

Humble Petition of the Petitioner herein

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. This petition impugns the final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 53 of 2020, whereby the High Court wrongfully refused to grant relief to the 1700 Nepalese migrant workers stranded at the India-Nepal border in Pithoragarh and Champawat districts in the State of Uttarakhand, who wish to return to Nepal. The High Court held that the Nepalese migrant workers could not be repatriated to Nepal purportedly since Nepal Government had declared a national lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID -19, "coronavirus", and no

one was being permitted to cross the Nepal border. The High Court thus erred in failing to appreciate the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020, which clearly directed the Government of Nepal to allow Nepalese citizens stranded on the Indian side of the border to cross the border and enter into Nepal. This order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020 was presented before the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in W.P. (PIL) No. 53 of 2020, but does not find any mention in the impugned order. This petition is being filed seeking relief for the 1700 Nepalese citizens stranded at the India-Nepal order and for a direction to the Respondents to allow these persons to cross the border and enter into Nepal to return home.

1A. The Petitioner states that no LPA or Writ Appeal lies against the impugned order(s).

2. QUESTION OF LAW

The Petitioner states that the following questions of law arise for consideration of this Hon'ble Court:

 Whether the Hon'ble High Court erred in the impugned order while holding that the Nepalese migrant workers stranded at the India-Nepal border could not be allowed to cross the border and return to Nepal; 2. Whether the Hon'ble High Court erred in the impugned order to fail to appreciate the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020.

3. DECLARATION IN TERMS OF RULE 3(2)

The Petitioners states that no other petition seeking Special Leave to Appeal has been filed by them against the impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 53 of 2020.

4. DECLARATION IN TERMS OF RULE 5

The Petitioner states that the Annexures P1 to P-4 produced along with the instant SLP are true copies of the pleading/documents which formed part of the record of the case in the Hon'ble High Court against whose order the leave to appeal is sought for in this petition.

5. GROUNDS

The Petitioner is seeking intervention of this Hon'ble Court, inter alia, on the following grounds:

A. BECAUSE the Hon'ble High Court erred in the impugned order while holding that the Nepalese migrant workers stranded at the India-Nepal border could not be allowed to cross the border and return to Nepal.

- B. BECAUSE the Hon'ble High Court erred in the impugned order to fail to appreciate the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal dated 7.4.2020.
- C. BECAUSE the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Nepal in its order dated 7.4.2020 gave clear directions to the Government of Nepal to allow Nepalese citizens stranded at the border in India to enter into Nepal and return to their homes.
- D. BECAUSE the right to life under Article 21 of Constitution of India extends to all persons, including those who are not citizens of India.
- E. BECAUSE leaving migrant workers in border states without adequate protection, in the form of food security, provisions for health and sanitation is a blatant violation of their fundamental right to life.
- F. BECAUSE the rights to life and personal liberty with dignity and the right to health is protected by the binding international instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which India is a signatory to and constitutionally duty bound to respect, obey and implement.
- G. BECAUSE the thousands of stranded workers living without health and sanitation facilities face a grave risk to their health and lives, especially in the present circumstances of a global pandemic, and also pose a threat to the public at large.

6. GROUNDS FOR INTERIM RELIEF

The Petitioner has a very good case and there is every possibility of succeeding in this case and if during the pendency of the present SLP, suspension of the impugned orders is not granted to the Petitioner, the Petitioner would suffer irreparable loss and injury.

7. MAIN PRAYER

The Petitioner prays before this Hon'ble Court, inter alia, for the following reliefs:

- a. For grant of Special Leave to Appeal against the impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 53 of 2020.
- b. For any other order or direction that this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and appropriate in the interest of justice.

8. INTERIM PRAYER

The Petitioner prays before this Hon'ble Court, inter alia, for the following interim reliefs:

1. That the roughly 1700 Nepalese citizens stranded at the Nepal

border in Uttarakhand be allowed to cross the border and enter

into Nepal.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS, THE PETITIONER AS IN DUTY

BUOND SHALL EVER BE GRATEFUL.

Drawn by: Siddharth Seem

Place: New Delhi

Filed on: 22.4.2020

SATYA MITRA

(ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

[S.C.R., Order XXI Rule 3 (1) (a)]

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) OF 2020

(Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ganga Giri Goswami

... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Anr.

... Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

- I, Ganga Giri Goswami, ..., hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:
- 1. That I am Petitioners in the above SLP and as such I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of this case and hence authorized to swear the present affidavit.
- 2. That I have read and understood the contents of the accompanying Synopsis & List of Dates from Page no. B to N, SLP from page no. 1 to 13 and paragraph 1 to 8, and the accompanying Applications and that the same is being filed under my instructions and the contents thereof are true to the best of my belief and nothing material has been concealed.
- 3. That the Petitioners have not filed any other similar petition/application before this Hon'ble court seeking similar prayers.

| 4. | That the | annexures | annexed | with t | the p | etition/ | applicat | tion | are | true | and |
|----|------------|-----------|---------|--------|-------|----------|----------|------|-----|------|-----|
| | correct co | | | | | | | | | | |

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at ______ on this 22nd day of the Month of April, 2020 that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

DEPONENT

APPENDIX

Constitution of India

Article 21

No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

[S.C.R., Order XXI Rule 3 (1) (a)]

(Civil Appellate Jurisdiction)

SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) OF 2020

(Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India)

(Arising out of impugned final order dated 20.4.2020 passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand at Nainital in Writ Petition (PIL)

No. 53 of 2020)

(WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELEIF)

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ganga Giri Goswami ... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India & Anr. ... Respondents

CERTIFICATE

Certified that the Special Leave Petition is confined only to the pleadings before the Court whose judgment/order is challenged and the other documents relied upon in those proceedings. No additional facts/documents have been taken therein or relied upon in the Special Leave Petition. It is further certified that the copies of the documents/annexures attached to the Special Leave Petition are necessary to answer the questions of law raised in the Petition or to make out grounds urged in the Special Leave Petition for consideration of this Hon'ble Court. This certificate is given on the basis of the instructions given by the Petitioner whose affidavit is filed in support of the Special Leave Petition.

Place: New Delhi Satya Mitra

Date: 22.4.2020 (Advocate for the Petitioner)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND AT NAINITAL EXTRAORDINARY CIVIL WRIT JURISDICTION

Writ Petition (PIL) No.53 of 2020

(Under Article 226 of the Constitution of India)

(In the matter of Public Interest Litigation)

MEMO OF PARTIES

IN THE MATTER OF:

Ganga Giri Goswami,

... Petitioner

Versus

- Union of India,
 Through its Secretary,
 Ministry of Home Affairs,
 North Block,
 New Delhi- 110001.
- State of Uttarakhand,
 Through its Chief Secretary,
 New Building, Uttaranchal Secretariat,
 Fourth, 4, Subhash Road, Dehradun,
 Uttarakhand- 248001.

...Respondents

Place: New Delhi

Date: 22.4.2020 Filed By:

(SATYA MITRA)

Advocate for the Petitioner