

**SECTION - XVII**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
INHERENT JURISDICTION**

**INTERLOCUTORY APPLICATION D. NO. 71936 & 71937 OF  
2020**  
(Applications for impleadment and exemption from filing affidavit)

**IN  
SUO MOTU CONTEMPT (CRL.) NO. 1 OF 2020**

Mr. Prasanna S., Advocate has on 04.08.2020 filed the instant application for impleadment in the matter above mentioned on behalf of Ms. Aruna Roy and 15 ors. The applicants are members of the Civil Society with varying backgrounds in their respective fields of work.

It is stated in the application that the initiation of the contempt proceedings against the alleged contemnors - Mr. Prashant Bhushan for expression of an opinion relating to the functioning of this Court, that a reasonable person can legitimately hold, is manifestly unjust and unconstitutional for violation of rights under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution - not just of the Alleged Contemnor Mr. Bhushan, but also the wider public- insofar as it causes a chilling effect on the exercise of the right to free expression. They are of the considered view that the instant contempt proceedings would stifle the right of free speech and expression of not just the Contemnor but also of many Citizens of the Country.


In this connection, it is relevant to take note of the observations of this Hon'ble Court made in SMCrl. Contempt No. 1 of 2017- in re. C.S.Karnan, which were in the following terms :

***"5. Since contempt proceedings are a matter strictly between the Court and the alleged contemnor, anyone who enters appearance and disrupts the proceedings of this case in future, should understand that he/she can be proceeded against, in consonance with law. All that we need to say is, that no one should appear in this***

***matter, without due consent and authorization."***

In view of the observations of this Hon'ble Court as quoted hereinabove, there appears to be no reasonable cause to receive the instant application for registration. I accordingly lodge the same under the provisions of Order XV Rule 5 of Supreme Court Rules, 2013.

Learned counsel be informed accordingly.



**(DEEPAK JAIN)  
REGISTRAR [A-1]  
04.08.2020**