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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 3725/2018**

COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION

..... Petitioner

Through: **Mr. Rajshekhar Rao, Sr. Advocate (Amicus Curiae) with Mr. Areeb Amanullah, Advocate**

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: **Ms. Monika Arora, Mr. Yesh Tyagi, Advocates for UoI
Ms. Anindita Pujari, Advocate for Respondent No. 2
Mr. Rajendra Singh Rana, Advocate for R-8
Mr. Nitesh Jain, Mr. Rajat Jariwal, Ms. Saniya Mivani, Advocates for R-28**

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

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O R D E R
13.02.2023

1. Taking note of the nature and manner of reporting of an alleged incident of a gang rape and murder by various newspapers wherein the privacy of victim which is required to be maintained in respect of the identity of a victim has been violated, this Court initiated *suo motu* proceedings against the various newspapers on 13.04.2018. The manner in which the incident was reported is contrary to Section 23 of the Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) as well as Section 228A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The manner of reporting the incident is also against the public justice.

2. Notices were initially issued to 16 media houses and by Order dated 18.04.2018, the media house were directed to deposit a sum of Rs.10 lakhs each with the Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority. The matter was listed from time to time for compliance of the Order passed by this Court and more media houses were included in the array of the parties for payment of compensation.

3. When the matter was listed on 18.02.2020 before Court, it was observed that Respondent No.28/Al Jazeera Media Network Private Limited has not deposited Rs.10 lakhs, and the Union of India was directed to provide proper address of Respondent No.28.

4. Learned Counsel for the Respondent No.28 submits that Respondent No.28 was not served earlier due to error in their name in the petition. He submits that the correct name of Respondent No.28 is AJI International Pvt. Limited. He prays that the same be corrected accordingly.

5. Prayer is allowed. Registry is directed to correct the name of Respondent No.28.

6. Learned Counsel for Respondent No.28 has stated that as directed by this Court *vide* Order dated 18.04.2018, a Demand Draft of Rs.10 lakhs is ready. He prays for two days' time to deposit the same with the Registrar General of this Court.

7. Prayer is allowed.

8. Learned Counsel for the Respondent No.8 has stated in the open Court that as directed by this Court *vide* order dated 18.04.2018, Respondent

No.8 has already deposited Rs.10 lakhs with the Registrar General of this Court.

9. The Registrar General of this Court is directed to transmit the amounts so deposited by Respondents No.8, 28 and by other Respondents in the present case, if any such amount is still lying with the Court, to the Victim Compensation Fund maintained by the Jammu & Kashmir State Legal Services Authority for disbursement of funds to the victims/families of the deceased victims of sexual violence.

10. Interim protection granted to other Respondents is also granted to Respondents No.8 & 28.

11. Learned Counsel for the parties have fairly stated before this Court that all the media houses to whom notices were issued for compliance of the Order dated 18.04.2018 have complied with the Order, and therefore, no further orders are required to be passed in the matter.

12. In view of the above, the instant Writ Petition is disposed of along with the pending application(s), if any.

SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, CJ

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J

FEBRUARY 13, 2023/Rahul