

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.345 of 2023

Court on its own motion on the basis of resolution/complaint passed by Coordination Committee

Versus

... ... Petitioner/s

... ... Respondent/s

The State of Bihar & Ors.

<b>Appearance :</b> For the Petitioner/s	:	
For the Respondent/s		Mr. Sunil Kumar Mandal, SC 3
r or the respondences		Mr. Y.C. Verma, Sr. Advocate
		Mr. Shri Ajay Kumar Thakur, Advocate
		Mr. Sanjay Singh, Sr. Advocate,
		Mr. Ramakant Sharma, Sr. Advocate
		Smt. Nivedita Nirvikar, learned Senior Advocate,
		Mr. Shailendra Kumar Singh, Advocate
		Mr. Mukesh Kant, Advocate

#### **CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

and

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PARTHA SARTHY ORAL ORDER

## (Per: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE)

2 10-01-2023

Today, in the morning session, we passed the

following order:-

"On an oral mention by Shri Y.C.Verma, Chairman, Co-ordination Committee, Shri Ajay Kumar Thakur, President, Lawyers' Association, Shri Sanjay Singh, President, Bar Association, Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Convenor, Coordination Committee, Shri Mukesh Kant, Secretary, Bar Association, Shri Ramakant Sharma, Chairman Bihar Bar Council, Shri Anjani Kumar, learned A.A.G.-4, Smt. Nivedita Nirvikar, learned Senior Advocate, the present resolution/complaint is placed



before us in relation to the alleged misconduct of a practising advocate of this Court.

Emphatically, it is pointed out that the said advocate is violating the law with impunity and is roaming in the court complex. Also, there has been past incident of similar nature by the very same advocate.

We direct the Registry to forthwith register the resolution/complaint presented before this Court as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and after processing the same, list it today itself.

We are also informed that a report in relation to past conduct of the very same advocate is lying in a sealed cover in the registry.

Registrar General also to place the same on record."

The petition stands registered and placed before us.

The resolutions signed by the Co-ordination Committee of three Associations of the Patna High Court; body of a lady advocates of the Patna High Court; Secretary of the Bar Association; and the General Secretary of the Lawyers' Association are extracted as under:-



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# Coordination Committee of Three Association of Patna High Court

The Coordination Committee of the Patna High Court in its extraordinary meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 4:00 pm has unanimously resolved to adopt and accept resolution dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2023 of the General Body Meeting of the Lady Advocates of Patna High Court, which reads as follows:-

"It is further resolved that we propose to make a request to the Hon'ble High Court to take up matter Suo Moto and order for proper investigation by an agency which remains uninfluenced; to ensure speedy trial in the case monitored by the Hon'ble Patna High Court and provide adequate security to the victim. We further resolve to make a request to the Hon'ble Patna High Court to kindly bar the entry of Adv. Niranjan Kumar in the premises of the High Court till a decision upon his license is taken by the Bar Council, as it would be in the interest of maintaining the sanctity of the work environment of the Hon'ble Patna High Court."

The Coordination Committee in addition to the aforesaid resolution also resolves that the matter be referred to the Prevention of Sexual Harassment At Workplace Committee Patna High Court for an early inquiry and resolution of the matter.

The Coordination Committee also resolves to request the Hon'ble High Court to direct that during the pendency of the inquiry and resolution



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by the aforesaid Committee, said Niranjan Kumar be barred from entering the premises of this High Court and conducting cases. Allelan 2023 (Chairman) (President) Lawyers Association Bar Asso ciation Coordination Committee Jrak sigh H. Garde (Convenor) Lawyers Association Bar Association Coordination Committee Ph.: 0612-2505013 YERS'ASSOCIATION Patna High Court Date 09/01/23 No.003/20/63 The Lawyers' Association, Patna High Court, Patna in its extraordinary meeting held on 09.01.2023 though online has unanimously resolved to deprecate the alleged misconduct of Advocate Niranjan Kumar who has been made accused of sexual harassment by an intern law student in his chambers who was interning under the said Advocate Niranjan Kumar, His misconduct is most unbecoming and does not behove of an advocate. It has shamed the entire lawyers fraternity and has shaken its conscience to the core. The Lawyers' Association further resolved that the said Niranjan Kumar shall not be inducted as Member of this Association under any circumstances in future The Members of Executive Committee has appreciated the prompt action/decision of Bihar State Bar Council against said Niranjan Kumar. It is further resolved that the Co-ordination Committee, Patna High Court, Patna be requested to take appropriate action against the said Niranjan Kumar against his misconduct and further REOUFST THE HON'BLE PATNA HIGH COURT, PATNA TO INISCONDUCT AND THE REQUEST THE NOA BLE FATSA HIGH COURT, PATNA IT BAN THE ENTRY OF SAID NIRANJAN KUMAR FROM THE PREMISES OF HON'BLE PATNA HIGH COURT, PATNA THE DISPOSAL OF ALL THE ENQUIRIES/PROCEEDINGS PENDING AGAINST THE SAID NIRANJAN KUMAR. ajeer Kuman Sm 6 (RAJEEV KUMAR SINGH) GENERAL SECRETARY. PATNA HIGH COURT, PATNA



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## RESOLUTION

Pursuant to a general body meeting of the lady advocates of Patna High Court on 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan, 2023 a resolution has been taken to strongly and vehemently condemn the depricable and hateful act of Advocate Niranjan Kumar with his female intern in his office Chamber. This Misconduct of the concerned advocate is beyond any level of tolerance and the trauma of the young law student is deeply felt. Thus, we are all seriously concerned about the safety of law interns and other female legal professionals.

It is a matter of extreme shame that such an abominable act has happened in our legal fraternity and it comes as a shock, while we are talking about promoting gender equality in the legal profession.

We hereby resolve to boycott Advocate Niranjan Singh and request the members of the other associations to join hands with us in this endeavour.

It is further resolved that we propose to make a request to the Hon'ble High Court to take up matter Suo Moto and order for proper investigation by an agency which remains uninfluenced; to ensure speedy trial in the case monitored by the Hon'ble Patna High Court and provide adequate security to the victim. We further resolve to make a request to the Hon'ble Patna High Court to kindly bar the entry of Adv. Niranjan Kumar in the premises of the High Court till a decision upon his license is taken by the Bar Council, as it would be in the interest of maintaining the sanctity of the work environment of the Hon'ble Patna High Court.



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The members of the Bar Association resolve to deprecate the alleged misconduct of Advocate Niranjan Kumar who has been accused of sexual misdemeanours against an intern law student in his chambers who was interning under the said Advocate Niranjan Kumar. His misconduct is most unbecoming and does not behove of an advocate. It has shamed the entire lawyers fraternity and has shaken its conscience to the core.

Bihar Bar Council's resolution to initiate a disciplinary action against him is much appreciated.

The Bar Association requests it's members and members of the Bar to boycott Adv Niranjan Singh.

It is further resolved that coordination committee be proposed to resolve requiring the high court to take up the matter in judicial side and monitor the case since the accused has been allowed bail by magistrate in the most unusual and unprecedented manner.

(Mukesh Kant) (Secretary)



Report of earlier enquiry placed by the registry in the sealed cover is opened; perused and directed to be resealed and handed over to the Registrar General of this Court.

We have perused the interim report submitted by the Fact Finding Committee constituted by the Bihar State Bar Council vide communication dated 26.12.2022. The same is directed to be kept in a sealed cover to be kept by the Courtmaster of this Court.

Shri Sunil Kumar Mandal, learned S.C.-3, appears on behalf of the Respondent Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Shri Y.C.Verma, learned senior counsel appears on behalf of the Respondent No. 4, namely, the Co-ordination Committee through its Chairman, Patna High Court, Patna; Shri Ramakant Sharma, learned senior counsel appears on behalf of the Respondent No. 5 namely, The State Bar Council through its Chairman, Patna.

Let court notice be issued to the Respondent No. 6, namely, Mr. Niranjan (Advocate), Flat No.-101, Gajadhar Kailash Apartment, Road No. 2, East Patel Nagar (Near Gandhi Murti), Patna-23, Email: <u>niranjanlaw@gmail.com</u>.

Rule is made returnable on 19.01.2023.

At this stage, Shri Ramakant Sharma states that during the course of the day itself, he shall take a decision on



the interim report submitted by the Three Members Committee constituted by the State Bar Council, which, of course, shall be subject to the approval of the General Body of the Council.

Court Master to supply the authenticated copy of the order be supplied to all the concerned learned advocates.

List on 19.01.2023.

(Sanjay Karol, CJ)

(Partha Sarthy, J)

Sujit/Ashwini

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