

**IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDL. SESSIONS JUDGE /
SPECIAL JUDGE (SPE/CBI)-I, ERNAKULAM**

**Present: Sri. P.K. Mohandas, III Addl. Sessions Judge/
Special Judge (SPE/CBI)-I, Ernakulam**

Friday the 18th day of July, 2025/ 27th Ashada, 1947

Crl.M.P. No. 2908/2025

In

SC No. 1650/2024

Petitioner/Accused No.18 : Bill Gates Joshua, S/o Jose V Thannikkode,
Sulthan Bathery Village, Wayanad.

Represented by Advs. Sri. Isac Sanjay,

Complainant/Respondent : Central Bureau of Investigation, represented by
Spl. Public Prosecutor.

**Represented by Smt. Ramya Prasad,
Public Prosecutor, CBI -I Court, Ernakulam.**

This petition is coming on for hearing before me on 18.07.2025 and the Court on the same day passed the following:

ORDER

This application for modification of bail condition is filed by the 18th accused.

2. The petitioner is the 18th accused in the case. It is alleged that he along with the other accused committed criminal conspiracy, and physical assaulted the deceased, Sidharthan J. S., a student of Veterinary and Animal Science College, Pookode, Wayanad on the intervening night of 16.02.2024 and 17.02.2024 and abetted him to commit suicide. The case was initially registered

as Crime No. 77/2024 at Vythiri Police Station, and later transferred to the CBI and re-registered as RC.0502024S0002 following the notifications issued by the Government of Kerala and Ministry of Personnel, Government of India. After investigation, the CBI filed the final report on 25.04.2024 before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Ernakulam, against 19 accused, including the petitioner, for offence u/s.120B, 341, 323, 324, 342, 355, 306, 506 of IPC and u/s 4 and 3 of the Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998. The case was committed to the Sessions Court and is now made over to this court for trial and disposal

3. The petitioner was granted bail by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala as per order dated 31.05.2024 in Bail Application No.2754/2024 imposing conditions. The condition (vi) reads as follows; (vi) *"The petitioner shall not enter the Wayanad District till the conclusion of the trial in the above crime"*.

4. According to the petitioner, he is a permanent resident of Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad, where his family resides. Condition No. VI is causing severe hardship to him and his family as it restricts his entry into Wayanad. The petitioner was granted partial permission to enter Wayanad on specific days, vide order in Crl.M.P. No. 501/2025 of this Court. It is submitted that Accused No. 4 was granted deletion of condition No. VI by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in Crl.M.C. No. 2761/2025, by order dated 19.06.2025, on identical grounds of hardship. He was permitted to enter Wayanad District, except the jurisdiction of Vythiri Police Station. The investigation is complete and charge sheet is filed. There are no violations of bail conditions. Therefore, the petitioner seeks similar relief by way of deletion of Condition No. VI.

5. The petitioner submits that, despite partial relief, he continues to face difficulty in attending to personal and family matters due to the restriction on entering his native place. He undertakes to cooperate with the trial, not influence any witness, and comply with any condition imposed by this Court. It is observed by the Hon'ble High Court in the bail order, applications for deletion/modification of bail conditions shall be filed before the jurisdictional court.

6. The investigating officer filed an objection, contending that deletion of the bail condition imposed by the Hon'ble High Court may allow the petitioner to tamper with evidence or influence witnesses, who are his classmates or fellow students, and it would affect the trial of the case.

7. I have heard the counsel appearing for the petitioner and the Public Prosecutor.

8. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is a native of Sultan Bathery. The witnesses in this case, who are students in the college, are hailing from different parts of the State and not from Wayanad. According to him, most of the witnesses have completed their course and left the college. There is no basis for the apprehension raised by the investigating officer. The petitioner continues to face hardship due to the restriction on entering his native district, despite partial relief and full compliance with bail conditions for over a year. The petitioner is ready to abide by any condition.

9. As stated above, the petitioner was released on bail as per order dated 31.5.2024. Stringent conditions were imposed by the Hon'ble High Court considering the serious nature of the allegations against the petitioner and the

attending circumstances. Most of the witnesses are students of the College at Wayanad. This Court had previously allowed partial modification of the bail condition, permitting the petitioner to enter Wayanad District and remain at his residence from Friday to Monday of the 2nd week of every month, with effect from March 2025, until further orders. Similar conditions in the bail order of the 4th accused is relaxed by the Hon'ble High Court. The case of the petitioner is identical with that of the 4th accused. Considering the young age of the petitioner and the fact that support of his family will be necessary to ensure that he is not involved in any other anti social activities, I am of the view that condition no.(vi) of the bail order can be lifted.

Hence the petition is allowed. The petitioner is permitted to enter the Wayanad district, except the territorial jurisdiction of the Vythiri Police Station. All other conditions in the bail order shall stand unaltered.

Dictated to the Confidential Asst., transcribed and typewritten by her, corrected and pronounced by me in open court on this the 18th day of July, 2025.

Appendix: Nil

Sd/-
P. K. Mohandas
III Addl. Sessions Judge/
Special Judge (SPE/CBI)-I

Id/-
III Addl. Sessions Judge/
Special Judge (SPE/CBI)-I
(By Order)

//True Copy//

Sd/-
Sheristadar.