

IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

R/WRIT PETITION (PIL) (WRIT PETITION (PIL)) NO. 7 of 2025

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SUO MOTU

Versus

SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT & ORS.

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Appearance:

SUO MOTU for the Applicant(s) No. 1

NOTICE NOT RECD BACK for the Opponent(s) No. 1,2,3

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. SUPEHIA

and

HONOURABLE MS. JUSTICE GITA GOPI

Date : 03/02/2025

ORAL ORDER

(PER : HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A.S. SUPEHIA)

“All history attests that man has subjected woman to his will, used her as a means to promote his selfish gratification, to minister to his sensual pleasures, to be instrumental in promoting his comfort; but never has he desired to elevate her to that rank she was created to fill. He has done all he could to debase and enslave her mind; and now he looks triumphantly on the ruin he has wrought, and say, the being he has thus deeply injured is his inferior.” - Sarah Moore Grimke—an American abolitionist.

The quote validates the outrageous incident, which occurred at Village of Sanjeli Taluka in Dahod district. A destitute and

distressed tribal woman was assaulted, disrobed, paraded and dragged by a motorcycle. The incident, which has happened on 28th January, 2025 is widely reported in print and electronic media, and the video of the ill-fated incident has been circulated in social media as well. Such kind of incident not only impacts the social and mental wellbeing of women across the State, but has wide ramification because of unfettered social media. Hence, we take suo-motu cognizance of the incident.

The Home Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, and the District Superintendent of Police, Dahod District are directed to produce the status report of the action already taken, and also to apprise this Court of future course of action to be adopted for curbing such incidents.

The state authorities are also directed to inform this Court regarding the steps taken for the security, psychological and medical care of the destitute victims in such cases including the present victim.

It is also heart wrenching that there is no restraint or check on social media which allows the videos of a disrobed victim being circulated, which is a feed for the sadists, who take pleasure in circulating and enjoying the plight of a helpless

and deserted lady. The State Government shall also apprise this Court on this issue also.

Hence, we direct the Office to register the matter as Suo Motu PIL and shall issue **NOTICE** to the aforementioned parties.

The matter shall be listed on **FEBRUARY 12, 2025** before the First Court assigned such roster.

Sd/-

(A. S. SUPEHIA, J)

Sd/-

(GITA GOPI, J)

CAROLINE

Original copy of this order has been signed by the Hon'ble Judges.
Digitally signed by: CAROLINE ANTHONISWAMY(HC00212), Principal pvt Secretary, at High Court of Gujarat on 07/02/2025 13:10:35