

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (L) NO.19578 OF 2026

Bombay Bar Association & Ors.

.. Petitioners

Vs.

Union of India & Ors.

.. Respondents

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Mr. Nitin Thakkar, Senior Advocate a/w Mr. Dinyar Madon, Senior Advocate, Mr. Nilesh Modi, Mr. Suresh Sabrat, Ms. Anshika Misra, Ms. Prachi, Tatake & Ms. Sachi Lodha i/by S. Mahomedbhai & Co., Advocates for the Petitioners.

Dr. Dhruti Kapadia, Advocate for Respondent Nos.1 & 2.

Mr. Ajay Patil, Advocate for Respondent No.3-CBI.

Mrs. Anjali Helekar, Govt. Pleader a/w Mr. Vikrant Parashurami, AGP, for Respondent No.4-State.

Mr. Shishir Hiray a/w Mr. Shubham Joshi and Mr. Kumar Saste, Advocates for Respondent Nos.5 & 7.

Mr. Dilip Rar, P.I. and Mr. Milind Kathed, P.I. - present.

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**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, ACJ &
GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.**

DATE : 15th JUNE, 2026.

P.C. :

1. We have heard the learned Senior Advocates Mr. Nitin Thakkar, on behalf of Petitioner No.1 and Mr. Dinyar Madon, on behalf of Petitioner No.2; Mr. Nilesh Modi, learned Advocate on behalf of Petitioner No.3. With their assistance, we have gone through the petition paper-book, especially those annexures which indicate that a Retired Judge of the Bombay High

Court is facing threats not only to he himself and his family, but his daughter and family members in the United Kingdom. A compilation of affidavit (38 pages) with annexures, indicating service of notice, is tendered to the Court. The same is collectively marked as '**X-1**' for identification.

2. **Issue notice** to the Respondents, returnable on **2nd July, 2026**.

The learned Advocate, Dr. Dhruti Kapadia, waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos.1 & 2; the learned Advocate, Mr. Ajay Patil, waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent No.3, CBI; the learned Advocate, Mrs. Anjali Helekar, Govt. Pleader, waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent No.4; and the learned Advocate, Mr. Shishir Hiray, waives service of notice on behalf of Respondent Nos.5 & 7.

3. We have also perused the data placed before us which indicate that the Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant has himself intervened in this matter. He was on a visit to United Kingdom. After being apprised of the series of events occurring in London in relation to the daughter and family members of the Retired Judge, His Lordship Mr Justice Surya Kant has himself met the High Commissioner in United Kingdom and sought immediate intervention. Adequate security arrangement to protect the family in London, was assured to the Hon'ble The Chief Justice of India by

the Indian High Commissioner Mr. P. Kumaran and within no time of the meeting, security cover has been extended to the daughter and family members of His Lordship (Retired Judge of the Bombay High Court), by the West Hertfordshire Police department.

4. The learned Senior Advocates Mr. Nitin Thakkar, Mr. Dinyar Madon and learned Advocate, Mr. Nilesh Modi, have expressed serious concern and they state that they feel very much worried not only about the independence of the judiciary, but, about a Retired Judge of the High Court, who devoted valuable years to the justice system, earlier as a lawyer and later as a Judge and who demitted office on 25th April 2024. If a Judge of a Court is threatened for performing judicial functions, the learned Senior Advocates submit that it could be a threat to the independence of the judiciary.

5. The learned Advocate appearing on behalf of the State of Maharashtra and its police department submits that this is not adversarial litigation and the police department would ensure that the Retired Judge is given adequate protection 24/7. The Retired Judge and his wife would be independently protected, even when either of them is indoors and the other member has to leave the house for any reason, as well as the daughter of the Retired Judge who resides in Mumbai, So also, a proper protection cover by

the police authorities would be ensured even at the residence, no matter how many of the members of the family are inside the house or not.

6. We would appreciate, if the Union of India gives us a complete picture in the form of a status report as to what continued steps have been undertaken for protecting the daughter of the Retired Judge, who already has suffered a brutal physical attack and was left with bleeding injuries on the road on 22nd April 2026 in an area in West Hertfordshire. The learned Advocate for the Union of India would also indicate in the report as to the steps taken by Mr. Mark Clawson, Detective Superintendent at the Hertfordshire Constabulary, as is reported by Hindustan Times.

7. We would also appreciate if the Commissioner of Police personally monitors investigation in India and submits a status report.

8. For the present, we are listing this petition on **2nd July, 2026**, in the 'Urgent Supplementary Board' to enable these authorities to submit the status report.

[GAUTAM A. ANKHAD, J.]

[ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE]