

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) NO(s). 250 OF 2007

NANDINI SUNDAR & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

(With appln(s) for directions and office report)
WITH W.P(CRL.) NO. 119 of 2007
(With office report)

Date: 15/04/2008 These Petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R.V. RAVEENDRAN

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Ashok Desai, Sr. Adv.
Mr. R.N. Karanjawala, Adv.
Mrs Manik Karanjawala, Adv.
Ms. Pragya Singh Baghel, Adv.

Mr. Ashok H. Desai, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Nitya Rama Krishnan, Adv.
Ms. Sumita Hazarika, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. K.K. Venugopal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Dr. Manish Singhvi, Adv.
Mr. Atul Jha, Adv.
Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Sinha ,Adv
Mr. Gopal Subramaniam, ASG
Ms. Sunita Shurma, Adv.
Mr. R. Basant, Adv., Mr. Anubhav Kumar, Adv.,
Ms. Sushma Suri, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following
ORDER
CRLMP.NO.6462/2008

The main petition is a PIL alleging large scale violations of Human Rights by 'Salwa Judum' and security forces. It is alleged that there have been several instances of killing, abductions, rapes and arson by them in the affected areas in the State of Chhatisgarh. It is also alleged that many local

-2-

youngsters are being given arms by the State of Chhatisgarh which has led to increase in crime. Petitioners also allege that the living conditions in the refugee settlement camps are deplorable due to non-availability of education, health facilities etc.

These allegations are denied by the State of Chhatisgarh. It is stated that

the peculiar circumstances arising from naxal activities has necessitated certain remedial steps to save the lives of people from naxal attacks. It is stated that the State had designated willing locals as Special Police Officers under the Police Act. It was submitted that if there was any crime or violation by any SPO, appropriate action will be taken, if such violations are brought to its notice. These submission were wholly supported by the learned Additional Solicitor General appearing for the Union of India.

After hearing both sides, we feel that in view of the serious allegations relating to violation of human rights by Naxalites and Salwa Judum and the living conditions in the refugee settlement colonies, it will be appropriate if the National Human Rights Commission examines/verifies these allegations. We leave it to the NHRC to appoint an appropriate fact finding Committee with such members as it deems fit and make available its report to this Court within eight weeks. We request the State of Chhatisgarh and the Union of India to render all cooperation to the NHRC and the Committee appointed by it. List after two months.

(R.K.DHAWAN)
COURT MASTER

(VEERA VERMA)
COURT MASTER