

ORDER SHEET

W.P.No.166 of 2018
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction
ORIGINAL SIDE

HUMAN & ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE LEAGUE & ANR.
Versus
THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

BEFORE:

The Hon'ble CHIEF JUSTICE JYOTIRMAY BHATTACHARYA
The Hon'ble JUSTICE ARIJIT BANERJEE
Date : 10th May, 2018.

Appearance :

Mr.Siddhartha Mitra,Sr.Advocate
Ms.Rituparna Chatterjee,Advocate
Ms.Priyanka Prasad,Advocate
...for petitioner.

Mr.Amitesh Banerjee,Ld.Sr.Standing Counsel.
Mr.Debasish Ghosh,Advocate
...for state.

Mr.Manas Kumar Das,Advocate
....for Union of India.

The Court : This public interest litigation has been filed complaining
of indiscriminate hunting of wild animals including those protected under The

Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, particularly during “Hunting Fests” (ShikarUtsavs) on the occasion of “Falharini Kali Pujo”. This year such festival is scheduled to be held from 12th to 16th May, 2018. The petitioners have approached this Court for appropriate orders so that such indiscriminate killing of wild animals does not take place.

Mr. Banerjee, learned senior standing counsel for the State authorities, produced a copy of a circular dated 8th May, 2018 issued by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wild Life, West Bengal addressed to the Divisional Forest Officer of various districts including Pura Medinipur and Howrah.

By the said circular, the Divisional Forest Officers have been advised to be alert and to organize staff for controlling illegal activities related to wildlife crime and to take necessary action to stop hunting of wild animals during the month of May, 2018 on the occasion of “Falharini Kali Pujo”.

Having heard the learned counsel for the parties, we are of the opinion that a long term solution to the problem that has been brought before this Court is necessary. Accordingly, let affidavit-in-opposition be filed within four weeks after summer vacation. Reply, thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter. List this matter six weeks after summer vacation under the same heading.

In the meantime, the Superintendent of Police, Howrah and Pura Medinipur districts as well as District Magistrates of the said two districts being the respondent nos. 6 to 9 are directed to extend all possible co-operation and

help including supply of adequate police force for implementation of the aforesaid circular dated 8th May, 2018 in its true letter and spirit.

Further, the railway authorities shall ensure that no illegal activities are carried out on the railway platforms particularly during “Hunt Fests” (“ShikarUtsavs”) to be held during “Falharini Kali Pujo”.

(JYOTIRMAY BHATTACHARYA, C.J.)

(ARIJIT BANERJEE, J.)