

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 75/2012

BACHPAN BACHAO ANDOLAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS. &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 05-09-2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTAFor Petitioner(s) Mr. H.S. Phoolka, Sr. Adv.  
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Mr. Saksham Maheshwari, Adv.  
  
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M/s. Venkat Palwai Law Associates

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

It is stated by learned counsel for the petitioner that the Standard Operating Procedure on Missing Children which has been issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the Government of India needs to be monitored so that effective steps are taken to trace out missing children and restore them to their families. It is suggested that the monitoring may be done by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). Learned

ASG has no objection to this.

In our opinion, this suggestion is acceptable. Accordingly, we direct the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to inform all the State Commissions to monitor the Standard Operating Procedure on Missing Children. There is no doubt that rescue of missing children and their restoration are of considerable importance and we expect the State Commissions to take up the task in right earnestness.

It is further submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) does not contain any data of missing children. Since the NCRB is not a party in this petition, we are not inclined to issue any direction to the NCRB to publish the data on missing children. However, we request the NCRB to look into this aspect and include it in the data that is published annually by the NCRB.

It is finally submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that in the event of a disaster, the persons who suffer the most are children. It is submitted that directions be issued to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to concentrate on the rescue and rehabilitation of children in the event of a disaster. Again, since the NDMA is not a party in these proceedings, we can only request the NDMA to look into this matter since it does appear that the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner are correct. The NDMA should give special attention to the children in the event of a disaster since they are the most vulnerable victims of a disaster that may strike at any time.

It is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that one

I.T. professional - Mr. Vijay Gnanadesikan has developed a mobile application on facial recognition of missing children. Learned counsel for the petitioner says that the petitioner will be in touch with Mr. Vijay Gnanadesikan and take his assistance so that the Government of India is able to make use of his expertise in developing and implementing a mobile application on facial recognition of missing children.

It is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that the cases of trafficking of children and children illegally being compelled to be involved in child labour are not registered by the police. No details have been furnished in this regard. However, we issue a general direction that in the event of any information about trafficking of children or exploitation of children contrary to law appropriate cases should be registered by the police and necessary follow up action be taken.

List the matter on 07.12.2017 for the limited purpose of facial recognition issues.

(MEENAKSHI KOHLI)  
COURT MASTER (SH)

(MADHU NARULA)  
COURT MASTER