

WPA (P) 463 of 2024
(Ritu Singh Vs. State of West Bengal & Ors.)

Mr. Sudip Sarkar
Mr. Subrata Mondal

.... For the petitioner

Mr. Kishore Datta, Ld. AG (V/c)
Mr. Swapan Banerjee, Ld. AGP
Ms. Sumita Shaw
Mr. Diptendu Narayan Banerjee

.... For the State

In this Public Interest Litigation, the petitioner, who claims to be a public spirited citizen, has highlighted the fact that during the Durga Puja and Lakshmi Puja celebrations in the State of West Bengal which were performed in the month of October, 2024 a particular religious community caused violence while the other community was performing the aforesaid Puja celebrations.

The learned advocate appearing for the petitioner submits that the acts of violence took place in several districts of the State of West Bengal and complaints have been lodged with the local police station as well as before the Superintendents of Police of the concerned districts and Commissioners of Police of concerned Police Commissionerates.

The learned advocate appearing for the petitioner further submits that since the State police have not taken any effective steps pursuant to the aforesaid complaints,

the investigation should be transferred to an independent and impartial investigating agency.

The learned Advocate General raises the issue of maintainability of the petition. He submits that the present petition is devoid of the necessary particulars and pleadings for transfer of an investigation from one agency to the other.

On a query of the Court, the learned Advocate General, in his usual fairness, submits that he is yet to receive reports from the concerned authorities with regard to steps taken pursuant to the complaints which have been annexed to this writ petition.

Accordingly, the Superintendents of Police of the concerned districts as well as the Commissioners of Police of the concerned Police Commissionerates who have been impleaded as respondent nos. 11 to 16, are directed to submit a report with regard to steps taken pursuant to the complaints which have been disclosed in this writ petition before the Director General of Police, West Bengal being the fourth respondent on or before November 11, 2024. The Director General of Police shall depute an Additional Director General of Police, who shall collate all such reports submitted before the fourth respondent and file a comprehensive report on or before the next date of hearing.

List this matter before the regular Bench on **November 14, 2024.**

The issue of maintainability of this petition is, however, kept open and shall be considered on the next date.

(Md. Shabbar Rashidi, J.) (Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, J.)