

23rd November 2021

To,
Justice N. V. Ramana,
The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India,
Supreme Court of India Complex,
New Delhi, Delhi – 110001.

**SUBJECT : POTENTIAL SECURITY RISK ARISING OUT OF THE
PUBLICATION OF LITIGANTS' RESIDENTIAL ADDRESSES
ON THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA'S WEBSITE**

Respected Sir,

I, Hamza Lakdawala, am a journalist, researcher, and writer from Mumbai, Maharashtra. I am a frequent contributor to various publications of repute and regularly write about the law and current affairs. My work has been published by outlets like The Leaflet, Mumbai Mirror, Live Law, Bar & Bench, News Click, National Herald, etc. I am also currently pursuing my LL.B. and I intend to join the legal profession next year.

I am writing to bring to your kind notice, an issue which is a matter of grave concern for the administration of justice. Since it is an issue that requires the exercise of administrative powers vested in the High Constitutional Office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, I am seeking the liberty to address this letter to Your Lordship.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's website is available to all who choose to access it. It displays the full residential addresses of the Petitioners and Respondents when one accesses the "Case Status" tab of the website. The Case Status feature is useful for all manner of administrative and procedural tasks and undoubtedly benefits the numerous *bona fide* advocates (and their staff members), journalists, and all other citizens of India. However, in the same breath, the same feature also opens up the said vital and personal information of parties to

unscrupulous persons, who may misuse the information and cause untold harm to the said parties.

As an example, please find enclosed herewith, a screenshot of the case details of Diary No. 27345/2021, titled as *Mukesh vs State of Tripura*, available on the Supreme Court's website. As can be seen from the screenshot, the names and residential addresses of the three Petitioners are available to anyone, who so chooses to access this part of the website. The screenshot of the case details of Diary No. 27345/2021 is attached to this letter as **Annexure A**.

The aforementioned petition has been filed on behalf of Advocates Mr. Mukesh and Mr. Ansarul Haq, and journalist Mr. Shyam Meera Singh, seeking quashing of an FIR registered against them for allegedly committing offences punishable under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 (UAPA) for highlighting, with the aid of social media, the outbreak of communal violence in Tripura. The publication of their addresses on the Supreme Court website provides for their exact locations to those who may wish harm upon them due to personal or political differences.

Given the situation on social media and the polarization of opinions that feed off on hate and vitriol, it would be wise to suppress the residential addresses from the website. It is not uncommon for vigilantes to visit the homes and offices of people they hate and oppose and unleash harm and hurt upon the persons concerned. While it is true that they can file police complaints or approach a court of law, adherence to the adage of "prevention is better than the cure" would prove to be far more beneficial. Mainstream media is replete with examples of hate speech, vigilantism, and mob justice. This has only increased due to the breach of law and order we are currently witnessing across the country.

While the Court is entitled to know the identity and addresses of the parties before it, the same information can be suppressed on the website of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in all matters where UAPA, or Section 124A or Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, or other serious criminal charges are invoked and there is a danger of vigilantism against the parties. Similarly, identities and addresses may also be suppressed in cases where the parties have approached the court in cases of honor killing, vigilante mob attacks against persons in inter-caste or

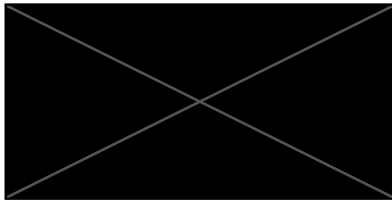
inter-religion marriages, and so on. These examples are only illustrative and not exhaustive.

The communication of the address on the website in the case status section serves no legal purpose and for that reason alone the addresses need not be displayed. The addresses will no doubt be available in the pleadings filed before the Court as required by law.



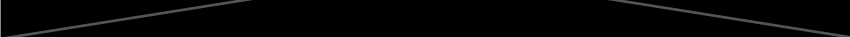
In light of the aforementioned, I humbly pray to your office to take cognizance of this letter and to direct the relevant authority to remove the said private information relating to the display of addresses of parties from the website. I also beg to pray that guidelines be issued to prohibit the public display of such sensitive information in the future, not only by the Supreme Court, but also by the various High Courts and Tribunals.

I am sure your office will act swiftly and do the needful at the earliest.

Please oblige. Thank you.



Hamza Lakdawala.

Phone : 
Email : 
Address : 



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SUPREME COURT OF INDIA (/) Annexure A

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(<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/supreme-court-of-india/id1523266644>)



(<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nic.sciapp>)

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Case Information (click here)

Diary Number	Case Number	Party Name	AOR	Court / Tribunal	Free Text
		9100		<input type="text" value="captcha*"/>	
Case Type	Number	Year			
WRIT PETITIO <input type="text"/>	470 <input type="text"/>	2021 <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	
Diary No.- 27345 - 2021					
MUKESH vs. STATE OF TRIPURA					
Case Details					
Diary No.	27345/2021 Filed on 10-11-2021 02:58 PM [SECTION: X]				PENDING
Case No.	W.P.(Cri.) No. 000470 - / 2021 Registered on 15-11-2021 (Verified On 15-11-2021)				
Present/Last Listed On	17-11-2021 [HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE, HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD and HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT]				
Status/Stage	Pending - (Motion Hearing (FRESH (FOR ADMISSION) - CRIMINAL CASES)) IA Allowed (147042/2021), Notice Issued and Stay Granted- Ord dt:17-11-2021				
Tentatively case may be listed on (likely to be listed on)	03-01-2022 (Computer generated)				
Category	1429-Criminal Matters : Matters for/against quashing of criminal proceedings				
Act					
Petitioner(s)	1 MUKESH [REDACTED]				
	2 ANSARUL HAQ ANSARI @ ANSAR INDORI [REDACTED]				
	3 SHYAM MEERA SINGH [REDACTED]				
Respondent(s)	1 STATE OF TRIPURA [REDACTED]				
	2 TAPAN CHANDRA DAS [REDACTED]				
	3 OFFICER IN CHARGE [REDACTED]				
	4 SRIKANT GUHA [REDACTED]				
	5 UNION OF INDIA [REDACTED]				
Pet. Advocate(s)	PRASHANT BHUSHAN				
Resp. Advocate(s)					
U/Section					
Indexing					
Earlier Court Details					
Tagged Matters					