



# LAWYERS

## COLLECTIVE

### Press statement on behalf of Indira Jaising, Anand Grover, and the Lawyers Collective (LC)

8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

It has come to our knowledge that notice has been issued today, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 by the Supreme Court of India in a petition filed by one 'Lawyers Voice', in which we are made Respondents along with the Union of India. It appears that the Petitioner has asked for criminal prosecution against us. Though notice has been issued to the Respondents, we have not yet received a copy of the same.

We are deeply disturbed by the turn of events.

It needs to be noted that the Petition came to be filed on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

It appears from the record on the Supreme Court's website that the petition was filed on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 3.19pm. There were a number of objections, which were removed on 7<sup>th</sup> May. It further appears that though the matter was not orally mentioned on 7<sup>th</sup> May, it came to be listed in Court No. 1 on 8<sup>th</sup> May, contrary to the circulars and notifications of the Supreme Court in respect of listing.

The latest circular of the Supreme Court on the issue of listing, dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 reads as:

*"In continuation of this Registry's circular No. 14/Judl/2019 dated April 29, 2019 regarding listing of fresh matters verified upto 06.05.2019 (Monday) before ensuing summer vacation, it is further brought to the notice of all the Members of the Bar and the parties appearing in-person that the Competent Authority has directed that some of the fresh matters verified on 07.05.2019 (Tuesday) will also be listed in the final cause list for 10.05.2019 (Friday), in chronological order of their verification."*

It has been brought to our knowledge that during the proceedings today, though the Petitioner's advocate did not orally seek any interim orders, the Court has passed an order to the effect that the pendency of the petition will not come in the way of government agencies proceeding in the matter.

It is obvious to us that this is victimization on account of Ms. Jaising taking up the issue of the procedure adopted in relation to the allegations of sexual harassment against the Chief Justice of India by a former employee of the Supreme Court, which Ms. Jaising has done so in her capacity as a concerned

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21.5.2019

citizen, a senior member of the Bar and a women's rights advocate, without commenting on the merits of the allegations.

Considering that Ms. Jaising has been publicly vocal on the issue of due process of law in relation to the conduct of the in-house inquiry, the Chief Justice ought to have recused himself from hearing the matter.

It appears from the oral submissions by the Advocate for the Petitioner that the petition concerns the "mis-utilisation" of foreign funding under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 ("FCRA"). We wish to state that LC has no foreign funding since 2016, when its FCRA registration was suspended and subsequently cancelled by the Ministry of Home Affairs on false and illegal grounds. LC has taken up appropriate legal proceedings against the cancellation in accordance with law. In any event, we strongly dispute any allegation of mis-utilisation of any funds.

We will respond to the petition, as and when we served the same. We are seeking competent legal advice and our future course of action will be decided in due course.



8 May 2019

Indira Jaising  
8/5/2019

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