
(1973) 09 SC CK 0005

In the Supreme Court Of India

Case No : Writ Petition No. 770 of 1973

Mrinal Roy

APPELLANT

Vs

State of West Bengal and Others

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 06-09-1973

Acts Referred:

Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971 — Section 3

Citation : AIR 1974 SC 1796 : (1974) CriLJ 1264 : (1973) 2 SCC 822 : (1973) SCC(Cri) 1081 : (1973) 5 UJ 842

Hon'ble Judges : H. R. Khanna, J;A Alagiriswami, J

Bench : Division Bench

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

Khanna, J.—This is a petition for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus by Mrinal Roy, who has been ordered by the Commissioner of Police Calcutta to be detained u/s 3 of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

2. An order for the detention of the petitioner u/s 3 of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act was made by the Commissioner of Police Calcutta on December 6, 1971. The grounds on which the said order was passed related to the activities of the petitioner on December 27, 1970 and January 23, 1971. The petitioner in pursuance of the aforesaid order was arrested and was kept under detention. While the petitioner was under detention, this Court gave its judgment in the case of Shambhu Nath Sarkar v. State of West Bengal Write Petition 266 of 1972, decided on April 19, 1973. In view of that judgment, the petitioner was released on April, 23, 1973. Under the orders of the State Government. The same day a fresh order for the detention of the petitioner was made by the Commissioner of Police Calcutta u/s 3 of the Maintenance of Internal Security Act. This subsequent order of detention was made precisely on the same grounds on which the earlier order of detention dated December 6, 1971 had been made.

3. We have heard Mr. Puri who has argued the case omicus curiae on behalf of the petitioner and Mr. D.N. Mukherjee on behalf of the respondents, and find that

this case is covered directly by our decision in the case of Chotka Hembram v. The State of West Bengal and Ors. Write Petition 841 of 1973, decided on April 29, 1973, wherein upon similar facts we quashed the detention of the detenu.

4. It has been argued by Mr. Mukherjee that at the time the writ petition was sent from jail by the petitioner, the only order of detention which was in force against the petitioner was one dated December 6, 1971. The subsequent order of detention was made during the pendency of the petition, and as the aforesaid order has not been assailed by petitioner, the petition, according to Mr. Mukherjee, should be dismissed on the ground. There is, in our opinion, no force in this contention. What has been challenged by the petitioner is his detention. If fresh facts come into existence during the pendency of the petition and those facts also reveal that the detention of the petitioner is not in accordance with law, this Court would not stay its hand in directing the release of the petitioner. It has to be borne in mind that the relief sought by the petitioner is for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus. The petition has been sent by him from jail. We would not normally allow a technical plea to prevail in a matter which affects the liberty of the subject, more so when on consideration of the circumstances in their entirety, we find that the detention of the petitioner is not in accordance with law.

5. Following our decision mentioned above, we accept the petition, quash the fresh order of detention dated April 23, 1973 and direct that the petitioner be set at liberty forthwith.