

Love Jihad!

Myth or Reality



VOICE FOR JUSTICE

E-mail : info@voiceforjustice.in • Website : www.voiceforjustice.in

THE FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1) | Shri. Justice Surendra Bharghav
Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim. Jaipur, Rajasthan. | Chairman |
| 2) | Shri. T.S. Rao, IPS
Former Director General of Police,
Government of Andhra Pradesh. Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. | Member |
| 3) | Shri. Gurucharan Singh Gill
Former Additional Advocate General, Government of Rajasthan. Jaipur, Rajasthan. | Member |
| 4) | Dr. I.B. Vijayalakshmi, MD., DM
Paediatric Cardiologist, Social Activist, Columnist. Bengaluru, Karnataka. | Member |
| 5) | Dr. Suvarna Rawal
Member (NGO for Development of Nomadic Tribes) Bhiwandi, Thane Dt., Maharashtra. | Member |
| 6) | Shri. P. Ganapathi
Industrialist, Chennai. | Member |
| 7) | Shri. S. Ravi
Advocate, Chennai. | Member |
| 8) | Shri. Rammesh P. Garg
Pharmaceutical Consultant, Chennai. | Member Secretary |

Mission of VFJ

- To promote, protect and defend Human Rights and Freedom
- Establish supremacy of law
- To implement vigorously the concept of “Justice to all”, etc.

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PRELIMINARY

The VOICE FOR JUSTICE, a Chennai based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), is concerned with the protection of Human Rights and ensuring Justice for those whose rights are infringed. wherever it gets any information either directly or indirectly with regard to serious violation of human rights or human respect it takes-up the matter in order to find out the root-cause of incident, to analyse them in order to avoid their recurrence; as well as to make suggestions to maintain the human social respects and to protect the human rights. For this the VOICE FOR JUSTICE has endeavoured to identify people of social standing such as retired Judges of the High Courts / Supreme Court, reputed Lawyers, retired IAS/IPS Officials, retired Officers from the Defence Services, people having a reputation and experience in educational fields as well as experts in the subject matter concerned. The VOICE FOR JUSTICE involves them to take-up the most needed socio-legal activities, to propose remedial measures and help to tackle cases of violation of human rights and any danger to social respect, social peace or social harmony.

The aim and objects of the VOICE FOR JUSTICE are as below:-

VOICE FOR JUSTICE is an apolitical registered Non-Governmental Organisation formed by an inspired group of professionals in various fields.

The Objective of VOICE FOR JUSTICE is to make an effort to generate an enlightened debate on issues that concern the society when basic human rights are deprived, especially to those people who are in the economically weaker stratum of the society.

The VOICE FOR JUSTICE will approach the problems in a unique way. The VOICE FOR JUSTICE will try to elicit facts related to a problem uncritically and present them so rationally, scientifically and in such a manner that the presented facts themselves will offer the solution.

For instance, when a problem presents itself, VOICE FOR JUSTICE shall study the problem in-depth, and approach a team of extremely eminent specialists in their respective fields, related to the problem, to undertake a scientific investigation of the problem, analyse the data thus obtained, and make recommendations to the appropriate forum for redressal / removal of the problem.

VOICE FOR JUSTICE will not normally compete with consumer rights organisations. Its area of focus will be deprivation of basic human rights and democratic rights of ordinary citizens.

VOICE FOR JUSTICE will be an excellent forum for men / women with integrity and a strong sense of nationalistic feelings. VOICE FOR JUSTICE solicits such persons to join and be a part of its efforts.

In the area of Malabar, women have always been honoured for long and had good command in the society. But in the past few years there has been not only a whisper but a cry over several incidents which have put the prestige, reputation and chastity of the women at stake. There were number of reports that well educated girls studying in good professional courses are being allured and ultimately being cheated in the name of LOVE. Few were sold or sent abroad or handed over to old age or criminal back ground persons, including persons involved in Terrorist activities, by their so called lovers. Renowned Malayalam Magazine "Janmabumi" on

September 17, published the number of incidents of disappearing girls. The same is being reproduced for reference as under:-

District	Cases reported	Cases registered	Rescued
Trivandrum	216	26	6
Kollam	98	34	7
Alappuzha	78	22	5
Pathanamthitta	87	36	11
Idukki	156	18	9
Kottayam	116	46	13
Ernakulam	228	52	26
Trissur	102	41	19
Palakkad	111	19	9
Malappuram	412	88	31
Kozhikode	364	92	29
Kannur	312	106	27
Kasargod	586	123	68

The renowned Malayalam news paper “Malayala Manorama” also showed similar anxiety with regarding to missing of girls as well as conversion of them in to other religion. The “Jago India” on September 2, 2009 on internet also posted a note under the caption “Kerala Islamists Organized Campaign to lure and convert non-Muslim girls; 940 girls missing in Kerala in the past five years”. There was also a big news in the news papers relating to a judgment passed by the Kerala High Court in bail application No.5288/2009 and similar another case bail application No.5289/2009. Hon’ble Justice Sankaran while rejecting the bail application of one Mr. Shahan Sha and another Mr. Sirajudeen made certain very important observations. As per para 10 of the judgment the Hon’ble Justice Sankaran while quoting from the reports submitted by the Director General of Kerala observed that the Student’s wing of the NDF and PFI known as Campus Front are known to be promoting religious conversion of young women in educational institutions and professional colleges. It is also quoted from the reports that certain organisations of Saudi Arabia are providing financial assistance to these activities under the head “Scholarships to the youth”. Though accurate number of religious conversions that took place are not available but statistics available shows that during the last 4 years about 300-400 incidents of religious conversion after love affair have taken place in the State of Kerala. Another statistics shows that 280 girls were converted to other religion in Kasaragod, Kannur, Kochi and Malapuram Districts. Justice Sankaran further referred from the report which also indicates about similar activities in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharastra, Bengaluru in Karnataka, where it is learnt that several Hindu Girls were converted to Islam. The report concluded that the Intelligence Department is of the view that such love marriages may invite friction in the society.

Justice Sankaran analyzed this matter and showed his concern in para No.22 to 26 of the judgment, which are :-

22. *“From some of the reports submitted by the police officers concerned to the Director General of Police, it is clear that there is a concerted effort to convert girls belonging to particular religions to another religion. It is also clear that this is being done with the blessings of some outfits mentioned in the reports. This should be of great concern to the people at large and to the Government. The Government is bound to protect the fundamental rights and civil rights of citizens. Article 25 of the Constitution of India does not entitle a person to indulge in activities to compulsive religious conversion. Compulsion is alien to the right conferred under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. The freedom of one should not entitle him to grab the freedom of another.*

23. *The rights of the parents to bring up their children in the way all of them like, also cannot be lost sight of. Simply because a boy or girl has become major, that does not mean that the parents have no say in the matter of their future and their career. The parents are entitled to protect their children. The parents are entitled to advise their children and mould their career. The right conferred under Article 25 of the Constitution does not enable a stranger to deny the rights of the parents of the girls. Article 25 is aimed at protecting individual freedom. It is not aimed at destroying the family set up and culture. In our country, there are laws for protecting the rights of parents. There are also laws compelling the parents to provide for even major children, in certain circumstances. The laws in our country are aimed at protecting the rights of our citizens and protecting the culture and traditions of our citizens.*
24. *The fundamental right enshrined under Article 25 of the Constitution of India that “all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion” is subject to “public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of Part III of the Constitution of India. Educational institutions, professional colleges and other institutions where the young people are engaged in their pursuit for learning and acquiring knowledge, are not certainly the breeding grounds for propagating religion. The framers of the Constitution would not have thought of converting educational institutions as the venue for propagating religion and for promoting religious conversion.*
25. *As rightly pointed out in the statement submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the act of practice of religion is concerned primarily with religious worship, ritual and observations. Propagation takes in the right to communicate beliefs to another person or to expand the tenets of one’s religion. It does not include a right to forcible or compulsive conversion. Any use of force or allurement for propagation of religion is illegal and may cause law and order problems.*
26. *The statement submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is also relevant on another aspect. Some of the State Governments have enacted legislations to prohibit any person to convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to any other religious faith by the use of force or by inducement or by any fraudulent means. In the scenario in the State of Kerala, it is for the people of the State, the Government and the legislators to consider whether any such law should be enacted for the State of Kerala. Let not our people fight against each other in the name of religion and faith. Let not our children be compelled to deviate from their path of pursuit of knowledge and learning. Let our children turn out to the best citizens of our nation. Let them live freely in the joyous atmosphere of educational institutions. Let love be sublime, divine and free from any other consideration. If some of the students want to become religious scholars, let them do so, but not at the peril of other students”.*

These incidents not only occurred in Kerala itself but there were similar complaints from the other parts of the country. In a website “bengalspotlite.blogspot.com” there was a blog on 24.9.2009 under the citation ‘Love Jihad’ in West Bengal, in which concern was expressed that in West Bengal and Kerala, two States of India dominated by the communists, are free zone for Muslim Fundamentalists and that terrorist organisations like SIMI, SIO, Jel, HUJI, Heezbul Mujahidin and ISI networkers have preferred to adopt the methodology of social engineering for exerting total grip of Islamic influence through NGO-set-up on the society. Similarly, in Maharashtra the Government had to assure a probe in such matters as similar cases were reported. Similar voices of concern were heard from the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and other States of India.

Reports reflected that the conversion was not only of Hindu Girls but of Christian Girls even. In large number of cases reported similar modus-operandi, was alleged. Certain renowned Christian and Hindu organizations raised a voice and warned the society of the conspiracy, along with certain awakening steps. On the other hand there were also reports in which such things were denied which includes the statement of Nitin Raut, Minister of State for Homes (Rural) who denied such things. There were also certain allegations that War on Terror or such incidents are being used to create a smokescreen to crack down on minority group. It was also alleged that the campaign is politically-motivated as the Hindu Supporting Political Parties have lost election in Maharashtra.

All this drew the attention through-out India of the Human Right Activists, as well the organizations and persons concerned with social peace. VOICE FOR JUSTICE, a pioneer in the Human Rights, took cognizance and decided to constitute a fact finding committee so that real picture may be brought to the notice of public at large in view of contradictory versions circulating among the public. The fact finding committee was constituted, with eminent persons who are totally unbiased from various parties of the Country rather from Kerala. The committee was constituted as below:-

- 1) **Shri. Justice Surendra Bharghav,**
Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Sikkim,
Presently living in Jaipur,
Rajasthan.

- 2) **Shri.T.S.Rao, IPS,**
Former Director General of Police,
Government of Andhra Pradesh,
Presently living in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

- 3) **Shri. Gurcharan Singh Gill,**
Former Additional Advocate General,
Government of Rajasthan,
Presently living in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- 4) **Dr. I.B.Vijayalakshmi, MD., DM,**
Pediatric Cardiologist, Social Activist,
Columnist. Presently living in Bengaluru,
Karnataka.

- 5) **Dr. Suvarna Rawal,**
Member, NGO for Development of Nomadic Tribes,
Presently living in Bhiwandi,
Thane Dt., Maharashtra.

- 6) **Shri.P.Ganapathi,**
Industrialist, Chennai.

- 7) **Shri. S. Ravi,**
Advocate, Chennai.

- 8) **Shri. Rammesh P Garg** Member – Secretary
Pharmaceutical Consultant.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (i) Whether such incidents of conversion which are alleged in the news paper etc. are happening in the State of Kerala.
- (ii) Whether such incidents have certain common factors, and have certain objective and the back grounds behind such incidents or they are simply independent love affair cases.
- (iii) Recommendations / Suggestions:

METHODOLOGY

The names of victims, their parents and others concerned referred in this report are all fictitious names to hide their identity.

The Fact Finding Committee visited Kerala and interviewed personally number of persons, who may be divided in to 3 categories:-

- (i) Aggrieved persons
- (ii) Aggrieved parents
- (iii) Social activists

In the first category Mr. Suresh from Kasargode and Reshma were interviewed by the committee. Due to certain social limitations and other things the aggrieved persons did not show courage to come forward but in the second category Shri Sanjay Kumar, Sheela, Sreeraman, Mrs. Bhageerati, Miss. Anjana, Mr. James and Mr. Mathews, who are parents of the aggrieved persons came forward and told their grievance not as a personal problem but emphasized it as the social problem. Few of them expressed the view that though they have lost their girls but now they have made a 'mission' so that others do not undergo the turmoil faced by them. They are working for social arrangement and fighting against such miscreants who are spoiling the life of the girls as well as making hell the life of the parents. Few renowned social activists of the Christian Organizations as well as of the Hindu Organizations also came forward to so throw some light on the issues as well as they brought in the notice of the committee, the steps which are being taken by them to curb such incidents. The third group includes CASA i.e. Christian Association of Social Action, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Manashakti Counseling Centre, Editor of Renowned News Paper "Janmabhoomi" as well as Advocate Shri Sri Kumar of Kochi, Prof. Unnikrishnan, Dr. Sadheesh, Mr. Stonly Zone etc. The gist of the statements made by them is discussed under Chapter-III titled as Evidence. In the evidence part we are describing the facts narrated by the persons whom we interviewed. This part is not exactly evidence in the legal sense since to constitute evidence in legal sense there should be examination in-chief and cross-examination. Keeping in view the sensitivity of the issue it was not appropriate to ask such questions which may hurt the sentiment of the deponents. There are certain facts which may not be based on first hand information but there is no scope for imagination since there is no reason for them to tell a lie. As in case of hearsay evidence there is scope for certain deviations from actual facts is due to passing of information from one person to another, such deviations are also possible in direct evidence cases as the witnesses may be some times tend to tell certain facts and conceal few. Keeping in view the theory of "preponderance of probabilities" the facts as narrated by the witnesses has to be considered relevant to arrive at a finding because for a fact finding committee it is not expected to get it established the facts beyond reasonable doubt but is entitled to draw inferences based on each and every set of circumstances / evidences. The fact finding committee in order to look into the all facets of the issue asked the VOICE FOR JUSTICE to ascertain the views of other organizations which had played important role in this matter. The Christian Association of Social Action, a renowned Christian Association came forward in a very enthusiastic manner. The President and General Secretary attended the hearing on both the days and deposed on wide ranging issues in addition to written representation. Similarly, Dr. Satheesh, who is an office

bearer of the Student Federation, the Youth Wing of the Ruling Party came forward to bring certain very material facts as well as expressing his anxiety on the issues. The Vishva Hindu Parishad is also playing a very important role in this matter and they have done a lot of work, which is reflected from the information available on the internet and the news paper reports. President of VHP Shri Madanan deposed before the Fact Finding Committee. The well circulated news paper Janmabhumi's Editor Smt. Leela Menon also threw certain light on the issue. There is a NGO working under the name of Manashakti Counseling Centre. This counseling centre was established to providing counseling to women and children having suicidal tendencies. In these matters there were also certain reports that certain girls on becoming despair, committed suicide and hence the attention of the NGO was drawn by such incidences. They brought to the notice of the committee four incidences which were dealt with by them. There was also language problem as certain witnesses deposed in Malayalam and through interpreter we tried to understand in English. Wherever we found it difficult to write down the things in the narrative form the same have been written down in question - answer form. Rather than language or grammatical aspect our thrust was on the ideas, views / issues so we are seeking indulgence of the concerned for such deviations.

EVIDENCE

1) SUDHESH HERALA SON OF SAMBHU RAU AND SUSHAMA R/O KASARGOD

Shabir became my friend at Kottayam. He introduced me with a girl and encouraged my meetings with her. Initially her name was told to me as Vineeta. Vineeta was earlier a Hindu and after conversion of religion her new name was Bhayeeshha.

I was in Ponnani for 2 months where I was converted and married to Bhayeeshha. I was given Rs.50/- per day for the period and they offered me more money if I could get more Hindus for conversion. I had Quran classes for 2 months. The first thing is to eat cow's meat (beef) after being converted. Before being converted, they performed circumcision on me. I was given Rs.300/- per day but allowed to keep only Rs.50/-, rest I had to give to my wife. They also ordered me not to have any sexual relation with the girl. I must take care of her wishes and live according to what she says. I was lured and allowed to have any relation with the girl for the first two months. After which the girl refused to live with me, nor I was given any money. Even my job was the same. That is when I ran off.

I was warned when I sent money to my parents. Now I am working as a servant in a hotel in Mangalore, earning 150 per day, but I am free. They have not followed me till now. My mother threatened to commit suicide if I didn't go back. They had tied a thread on my hand and from that moment I listened to what they said. I removed the thread one day before I ran away. They gave me cow's meat saying that it was chicken. After two months, I was told that I was eating cow's meat.

Iqbal (who taught me Quran) solemnized our marriage, but it was not registered. Ponnani was the centre of conversion where people from all over the country were brought. Shabir had a cell but I was not given his number. After coming back, when I contacted the police, instead of supporting me, they reprimanded me. There is a police report of my incident in Kasargod. They also said that the terrorists are having the blessings of Allah that is why they are successful in their missions. I can never trust any muslim again.

At Ponani there were 14 males and 30 females. All were converted. Ponani is not religious activity centre but a Centre for conversion. There are also few mosques also. Generally, people remain there for 6 months and meanwhile they are taught the Muslim tradition and Muslim practices.

It was filled-up in my minds that at Makka there was an idol earlier but when Mohammed Shah removed the same, then only he became powerful.

2) FRANCIS DICKSON ANTHONY, R/O CC-9/714, PAWDI KUDI, SECRETARY OF CHURCHES ASSOCIATION ALONGWITH HIM WAS MR. DARSON ANTHONY, GENERAL SECRETARY AS WELL AS MR. SAMSON CONVENER OF MEDICAL CELL OF THE ASSOCIATION.

It was told by them that only their Christian Association came forward for this cause though there are number of Christian Organisations, which are working here.

They believe that there are vested forces which are bent upon dividing the nation. They want the nation to be united. Their nation's strength is based on the family and the destruction of family will lead to nation's destruction. Kerala is one of the foremost educated states. The love jihad is based on educational field. Kerala is educated State. Love Jihad is started in Educational Institutions. If the education is spoiled every thing is spoiled.

Q : Can you please tell us the names of the institutions where these activities are going on?

A : Generally all colleges of Kochi are affected, specially in Diocese area. In Aquinos College two months back a Muslim boy induced Christian girls, who were studying in B.Ed. but the College Management did not want to disclose the things. In that incident the parents did not gave Mobile to the girl but boy gave the mobile to the girl as present. Mom snatched away the mobile, then girl ran away. The girl is still not traceable but the family do not want to come forward and they tried to suppress the matter due to fear of spoiling of the reputation as well as future of other family girls and boys.

If a Muslim boy enters in this sort of activity, then a whole group of people come out to help him in this, in each and every aspect but if it is vice versa then family is isolated / denounced. There is also one incident of Hindu Girl Deepti, as told by Mr. Sony.

Another incidence is of the girl, who was studying at Ahmedabad, who did not reach back after vacations. The matter was followed and reported to police. Then girl was recovered from boy's house at Mattancherry, the name of the uncle of the girl is Robert. When this girl was taken to police there were atleast 10 bikes with young boys (just to terrorise) and terrorise the girl and her parents at the one hand and on the other hand to give moral support to the seduces. The police tried to counsel the girl that she should go with her parents but sometimes girls are hypnotized that they do not listen to any logic or sentiments. For such purpose Ice Cream Parlors are used and where the drugs are also given, such Parlors are owned by the Muslim boys. Similarly, Juice Corner, Mobile Charging Centre, Cyber Cafe are also the centre for such activities and most of them are owned by the Muslim boys.

When a girl comes to a mobile charging centre naturally her number gets leaked. A boy with planning at the initial stage sends SMS or call in a polite manner and also say sorry for calling a wrong number. Somehow they start conversation and at beginning stage they remain very well behaved, soft spoken and talk in a praising style, which sometimes impress the girl and she starts the conversation. Then she is called to Ice Cream Parlour or Juice Corner by the boy and at such places certain drugs are also used to be given through juice or ice cream. A cumulative effect of all the things is that several girls get lured over and in such cases generally the parents do not come forward to give any complaint due to threat of these Goonda Elements as well as fear of loss of social reputation.

The Mattancheri area is known for smuggling of drugs, smack poison, land mafia. Local MLA has the relation with such persons and of dominating nature. P.A. to MLA of Muslim League has relation with the smugglers, supports openly such miscreants. The communist MLA also supports such persons. In CPM one faction supports such persons and hawala money is extensively used. The hawala money comes from Saudi Arabia through Western Union Money Transfer. There are also jewellery group which have branches in Middle East. Money transfer is also through them. Money is also transferred in cash through Haj yatris as there is no strict scanning of Haj flights. The young Muslim boys are given vehicle and money. These boys also threaten girls parents. Mr. John victim's father told that his girl who is below 16 years studying in 9th Class, disappeared for 4 days, she became drug addict, she told about using of ice cream and the cyber cafe story. The association made complaints at Pallurai (West Kochi) Police Station, but police did not take any action against such cyber cafes and ice cream parlors. Some time these girls get the Notary certificate of marriage and use it for black mailing, one Hindu girl Veenu was tackled in such a way. They took Video recording of Hindu Girl with Muslim. Due to this incident the

Hindu Girl's father has closed his hotel. Three persons were arrested by the police for breaking criminal harmony and case No.484/2007 at P.S. Fort Kochi was registered under Section 123-A but such things get the support of the police only if the issue is raised by an association.

3) VAIDEHI NAIR'S PARENTS - SHRI AJAY KUMAR AND SMT. SUDHA AJAY (SHE WAS WEeping AND GETTING NERVOUS WHILE SHE CAME FORWARD FOR GIVING HER INTERVIEW).

The girl who was studying in Victory College, Pallghat was missing 6 months before. Their untiring efforts and persuasion brought back the girl but when she remained 3 months with them, she realised that she had committed mistake. Due to exam she was put in hostel where she was blackmailed by the boy and she eloped with him. When the Police traced them there were number of persons including an advocate to assist the boy. This time she was looking changed in her appearance as she was compelled to get married and she signed the papers for getting registered under the Special Marriage Act.

Mother told that she did not have any knowledge of the affair or the blackmailing previously and when the girl was procured and was in the police station even when the mother bowed and begged at her feet to return back to the family there was no reaction on the face of the girl and to such an extent she has been brain washed. The boy has a criminal background, not so handsome and belong to an ordinary family but one day he brought one new car. Mother told that at the first instance when girl disappeared she herself called her mother. We tried to pursued the girl through her friend to whom she told that even the family members of the boy are not agreeing with this marriage but she is helpless as she has been blackmailed. The boy is simply a auto driver while the girl is studying in M.Sc. Final in IV Semester and got 84% marks, but due to brain wash, blackmailing and vashikaran, she is not willing to return back though we are trying for it. Mother told that what a surprising thing that we for 22 year took care of her in all aspects and the boy with whom she has stayed one day, she is caring for him and not for us though we are till today ready to accept her. On the other hand at any time in her life the boy will say only for one moment, talak talak talak then where she will go. The mother told that our name should not come in the news media.

4) PREMALATA (20 YEARS) PARENT'S (SHEELA KUNJU 43 YEARS AND THRISHNA, R/O AMBALAPAR, PANDAJAT PALAGHAT) VERDICT: DETAILS:

Shri Krishnapuram Bhattatiripad College, B.Com. Final Year, from Kadambu Pradesh, Palakkad has committed suicide on 11 July 2008.

Parents were labourers. On that unfortunate day, when they came back, they found their daughter hanging from the ceiling. They tried to save her but failed.

Q: What happened exactly?

A: On June 20, her friend Nimisha took her to Palakkad. On way they met two other Muslim guys and took a room in Malampuzha (on the context of the birthday of her friend Shriya). Monisha and Shriya took her in a car to Palakkad, on the way two Muslim boys entered a little while later. We came to know about it only on June 4, when we went to Monisha's house because after that day, she had lost interest in her studies and was always gloomy.

On the way Monisha got down from the car and joined another guy called Ranjith. (in another car)

Q : Do you know the name of the Muslim boys?

A : One of them was Naseer Babu. Second was Shamsuddin

We (Premalata and Shriya) thought that Monisha cheated us but later we came to know that Monisha's mother was in the car with Ranjith.

Q : How did Monisha's mother be a part of this?

A : Monisha's mother tried to threaten us and told us to get out. Later that day we went to Shriya's house to find out what happened, and even she said the same.

We met the Muslim guys, the next day near the temple, near the college. There they admitted whatever happened. They hadn't disclosed their names to the girls, when they joined them in the car. These two Muslim boys were already married and have children.

Q : How can unknown fellows join them in the car?

A : Monisha told them that the two guys were their friends (Babu and Ratheesh were their fake names).

From July 5, Shriya and Premalata started attending college, and the principal enquired into the matter. They told the principal on 2.7.2008 that they were raped. When they came out, students of CPI (M), SFI, teased them, because of the humiliation, she committed suicide. Both the boys went to gulf as the case got registered. The Dy. S.P. Ramchandran, who was investigating the case in a sincere manner, was transferred, when he was on the way to going to arrest the accused he was stopped and conveyed of transfer. Shriya was also raped but the parents of her did not lodge the report but after that incident the parents have to close their shop and shifted to Palaghat. Hindus are also caught in the racket and Hindu girls are being sent for prostitution to the Middle East. The Principal knows the whole incident and if he is inquired into the facts may come.

Q : Was this a love jihad or just a case of rape?

A : We don't know.

Q : Did they try to convert her?

A : No.

When the case was enquired by DYSP Ramachandran and he issued a statement that the guilty would be arrested soon, he was transferred the next day by political parties. Shriya continued with her studies but didn't file a complaint to protect her prestige. Just one month before, they had brought a house in Palakkad, and some land also, which indicates that Monisha and her family had received money.

Mr A : did the police question these girls? What is status now?

A : Yes they did. Right now the case is just held loose, due to new MLA.

Now even after 17 months, no result has been yielded. We were not given the postmortem report also.

5) MANASHAKTI COUNSELLING CENTRE

1st case :

Dr. Mallika & Smt. Sangeetha Sarma

It is actually a temple, adjoining to which we have our counseling room. We started of with 16 members 5 years back for serving people who have suicidal tendencies, especially for women and children, but now it has become a centre of counseling for LOVE JIHAD cases. Right now we have 4 important cases registered with us.

One is a girl who passed software engineering, Keerthana. She is from a very good family from Palakkad and is the only daughter of Mr. Vishnu Das and Mrs. Sangeetha Sarma. Mr. Vishnu Das is working in the railways department.

Keerthana is a smart student. She used to go the temple everyday, will make others to pray and she used to accompany her mother to the temple everyday. After finishing her graduation, she went to an interview where she met a boy Zubin. He was a typical modern guy. She didn't get the job, but the boy got it. She was very disappointed. While coming back to Ernakulam she didn't talk anything. When she reached home, she received a consoling mail from Zubin that don't worry you will get the job, just pray to Allah. Daily he used to send her the Allah's prayers. One fine morning she got a job nearby. She started saying that is was because of the blessings of Allah that she had got the job. Her dressing style changed completely. One fine morning she was not seen. Her parents enquired with everyone about her whereabouts but didn't get a clue. Finally in the evening, one of her mother's friends got a phone call from her Ponnani (where the conversions take place). She said that she had married Zubin and was very happy. Her parents filed a Habeas Corpus petition. They tried to meet her but of no avail. One morning, she came with the burqa. Her name is Piyusha now. She told the Court that the 23 years of her life was a waste and it was just now that she has got the real courage and virtue of god. After that she was not seen for quite some time. Many days later they got a call from her saying that she was in Kayamkulam, teaching Quran to other ladies. The mother went there one day. She told her mother that she doesn't want to come with her and given a chance she will convert them to Muslims! You people must also enjoy Islam. It's been 3 years and she has already delivered 2 children, maybe a third this year. She says she wants to deliver at least 7 children. She was not allowed to watch TV, nor go outside and talk with other men.

Q: Can you give the name of the lawyer who assisted them in filing the Habeas Corpus?

A: (Submits the report)

Q.: Did you notice the changes just after that incident?

A: Yes, in the dressings and in her mannerism.

Q : Do you think they could have done something on her so as to change her mind?

A: Yes I do feel. She wanted to stay alone when she came to house.

Zubin used to call regularly after that and also would give greetings to me via her. I never doubted him because Keerthana had more male friends than female friends. She was such an open minded girl. She had said in court that they were just friends and she just went to Ponnani to learn Islam, but when she came home and her father tried to apply chandan, she said that she was already married since 6 months.

Q : Was she under the influence of some drugs or black magic through those people?

A: No. She used to read Quran and receive e-mail. Actually I don't have a clear idea.

Right now she calls sometimes and tells us that she is very happy. She tells me to come over and see her children. Why should I go? I hate her now..... I don't want to see her again.

I had loved her and have received a nice prize for that. I don't want to see her or her children.

She wants to come back but we say that come back as our Keerthana without the veil, to which she is not agreeing. We can never accept her as Piyusha.

Q: Can you give us the actual copy of Habeas Corpus? It can be a more strong proof?

A: We will give it to you.

The boy's parents have accepted her.

2nd case

Vishnu Priya (19 years, 2nd Year B.COM)

She used to meet a Muslim guy daily in a bus when she used to go for college. By the end of three months she fell in love with him and she said that she can't live without him. I asked her why she is saying like that, whether you have had any illegal relationship with him. She replied in negative. She added that the boy had just kissed her. Within three or four months they got married. Her parents were very sad. Her father and brother brought her to me. She was a very nice girl.

Q : What may be the modus operandi of these people?

A: I think that these boys may be having very good looks to attract the Hindu girls. They all use mobiles and give it to these girls. They may also give gifts. We convinced her after a discussion with us that she had done wrong and was ready to be back, but the only problem was that she was married now, who will accept her.

3rd case:

MANJUMOL (Nurse in Kodimata, Kottayam)

Father is a farmer. She is a smart student. After she completed her schooling, she didn't go out only because of the reason that she didn't want to get separated from her parents. After her nursing, she started to work in a private hospital in Kottayam. She then got her mobile phone. One night during her shift she received a missed call to which she didn't respond. She received 3 more missed calls. She later asked who that person was. The person was a guy and he said that he had seen her in the hospital and she was very pretty.

The talks progressed and they became friends and then lovers within a month. The second month they met. She started talking for long hours on phone, even in the bathroom. Her mother was suspicious and informed her brother, who asked her about it. She said that he was just a friend. He asked that why are you talking, to which she replied that I am a grown up girl and talk to anyone I want to. I am working and earning money, what's wrong in talking to someone. Her brother got angry and snatched her mobile but soon after she got another mobile from somewhere. Her brother warned her that they won't allow this thing to go on. One morning she was getting ready, when her mother asked her where she was going. She replied that she was going to see the dentist. Her mother asked that why did she need to apply so much make up to meet a dentist. She didn't tell anything. Her brother with his friends kept an eye on her. She met the same guy on the way. Her brother and his friends caught them and brought them to her house. They asked him what his purpose was. He told that he wanted to marry her but his parents won't allow. Then her brother told him that we also won't allow her to marry you. He asked him to go away and don't repeat this thing again.

The girl became very furious because her brother insulted her lover and she said that she will marry him. The brother enquired about the whereabouts of this boy. But they found out that the specified details didn't match with anyone. They came back and told her, she said that they were lying. She was not allowed to go out of the house. It was then that they brought the girl to us. She was very adamant and was not talking to us. She didn't even open her mouth even after 2 months. When we explained to her what all was going on with other girls, she said that it may be with them but it was not happening with her, but her case was real. She said that her boyfriend was a real man and left.

I phoned her mother to enquire. She told me that the girl was still very adamant. Her parents went again to enquire about the boy with the address and details as given by the girl. But the Pattambi post office people said that this address doesn't exist. There is no such identity as this. Still the girl was not believing. Yesterday itself I phoned her but she says that I will search out that boy and marry him.

Q: Does the boy have any contact with the girl?

A: We don't know exactly but I think that she is using some means to talk with him.

Q: Is she married?

A: No.

I told her that once you marry him, they will force you to change your religion and won't allow you to work and meet other people, and he will make you just an apparatus for delivering children, but she is not believing.

Q: Is she with her parents now?

A: Yes.

Our people tried to trace the boy but he has run away. The girl's only motto now is to marry that boy. We don't have any proof that suggests that it may be a case of black magic, but we do believe that something is very suspicious about these cases.

4th case:

It is about a couple from Palakkad. They had a love marriage during their college days. After that the girl got a job somewhere outside and she moved out there. They had a son and he was with her. Her husband used to visit her every week. Her tenants were Muslims. Now the problem was that the lady was very suspicious about her husband and if he didn't turn up for a week she would suspect that he was having an extramarital relation. She would be very gloomy then. It was then that the owner's wife consoled her saying that men were like that and she gave her the Quran to read and told her that it would soothen her. She started reading it and was totally engrossed. When her husband turned up one day and found her performing the Muslim rites and reading Quran, he was shocked and became very angry. He threw it away and had a tiff with her. She had completely transformed into a Muslim and had not even informed her husband. He forcefully brought her back and confined her for a month, later she accepted her husband and life turned normal for them. When she resumed her job, later, she fell in love with a Muslim guy and eloped with him, leaving her husband and child behind!

6) DRUG SPECIALIST'S VIEW:

Prof. Unnikrishnan (Expert in Role of Drugs in such cases)

Q.: Please tell us how these girls are lured within minutes.

A: I don't think that they are being lured within minutes, it takes some time. With the best of my knowledge, it can't be done in such a less amount of time. This process can be supplemented by drugs.

Q.: What kind of drugs may be used?

A: Hard drugs may be used and dosages could be monitored to have the specified effect. They can be added to edible products in such quantities that won't alter the taste and yet have the desired effect.

Q.: Can you list some of the drugs?

A: Diazepam, Barbiturates, LSD (may be) and very structured counseling can give this effect.

Q: Are these drugs readily available?

A: Yes and they can be used anywhere.

Q: Do You think Cannibus may be used as a drug?

A: If you take a survey, around 60% of the college students take cannibus as a drug (mostly medical students) but I don't think it may be used in these type of cases.

Q: Some of the victim's parents say that the girls turned very adamant and refused to give up the relation. Do you think that these drugs can have such effect?

A: You can use combination of these drugs can be used. If fluoxin can be used to remove obsession then using these combinations, you can undo the effect and reinstall the obsession.

Q: We know that these drugs can have an effect of maximum 1 day. So why do these girls behave like this even after so long times?

A: That is what I am saying that it not drugs alone! Drugs are just being used to bring the brain waves to the state you desire, after that you need a well structured discussion to make them believe in your ways, and this can't be done in 10 minutes. It will take some time. To the best of my knowledge, there is no such wonder drug that can do this in minutes.

Q: Do you think there may be some kind of chemicals that the hakims might be using?

A: Maybe, but I need to have a sample before I can assert anything.

Q: Can narco analysis yield results in these cases?

A: It is not a foolproof method, so even if you get the statements from them, I wonder how much we can rely on them. But surely the modus operandi can be chalked out. It definitely cannot be a single methodology. They identify a potential victim and then go about it very systematically. I would like to keep it open because there can be so many ways..

We also have learnt of electrostatic methods being used to stimulate the brains.

If that is ruled out, then it's fine. But I doubt if it can be generalized.

Q: Can't we sample the victims to find out what drugs are being used?

A: Yes, but the sampling should be done within 5-6 hours or else it won't yield results. So its tough to do so in these cases.

Q: What methods do you suggest so that these activities can be prevented?

A: Good strong family background is a must. Communication is a must between parents and children. Attenuated amounts of Datura can also induce passiveness and make the victim docile, after which he or she can be counseled back.

7) JOURNALIST (JANMABHUMI):

Mrs. Leela Menon, Editor Janmabhumi.

Two girls from central part of Kerala ran away with two Muslim guys. These girls were studying for MBA and the two guys were ordinary bus conductors. Anyhow they befriended these girls and then they started giving them Muslim Literature (Quran) and slowly started to teach them various Islamic Practices. Subsequently they ran away and got married. As in all cases of LOVE JIHAD, the girls are taken to madrassas where they are to undergo a course in Quran and then they are converted. Initially one of the girls fell in true love with Shah Jahan and she ran away with him, and with one of her friends. Shah Jahan then coaxed her friend to marry his friend. They were then traced by their parents

and brought to court and the court ordered them to stay with their parents. The boy filed a Habeas Corpus stating that his conjugal rights were being violated and the girl's family was brought to the court, but the girls stated that they wanted to stay with their parents. In that particular case, the judge stated that this was a case of LOVE JIHAD because it was pretension of love and then subsequent conversion. Mostly after that the girls are deserted or as we presume through our sources, that they are taken for training in terrorist activities or taken for suicide squads. Or more than that, they are supplied to terrorists in hiding, who have no access to females. I wrote about these things in Janmabhumi where I am the editor.

This whole LOVE JIHAD thing started of with the famous writer Kamala Das, who converted and changed her name to Kamala Suraiya. She fell in love with a professor, with whom she was writing a book. He could sing well too. He had already two wives. She was a widow. So he asked her to marry him. She asked him how could she marry him as he is so many years younger to her, but he convinced her to marry him. So she converted herself to marry him, and it was then that the professor backtracked. After that she could never come back to Hinduism.

Q : Why could she not come back to Hinduism?

A : It was because she was very afraid that it may lead to a harm on her family from external forces because she was well known. Although she became a Hindu at heart. I used to meet her. She is very dear friend of mine. She even had published a book of poems called 'Ya Allah'. She wanted to come back but her eldest son told her not to change back to Hinduism now.

Q : Why?

A : Again it may be because of security concerns but I don't exactly know. Her all children are Hindus. Only she had converted herself. She had told me later, of which I don't have a physical proof, that the professor was given 1 crore from gulf to convert her to a Muslim, only because she was a very famous personality. He also became a share holder in a very famous resort in Calicut called 'KADAVA'. I used to be in constant touch with her and she felt very discarded here, so she shifted to Pune.

Q : When did the guy leave her?

A : After he got his money, he left her. He had no intention of marrying her. He was a philanderer. She used to tell me that she wanted to convert back and used to ask me to chant 'Lalita Shahastranamam'. One of my friends told me about the conditions of Madrassas, where in lots of Hindu's converted to Islam are taken. Because once you convert, no one takes you back to their religion.

I was called to a place, to talk about this matter, because 8 girls had ran away and converted to Islam.

Q : Don't you think there must be a way to help these people who have turned back to Hinduism at heart?

A : There should be. I once interviewed a cyber crime investigator called Ramya. She told me that a lot of cases were reported. She was telling me that one particular girl had once told her that her roommate was doing Namaaz and observing fasts and so on, and she was very scared to live with her. Ramya told her to bring her e-mail id, through which she found out that she was in love with a Muslim uneducated and jobless guy and she used to give him loads of money monthly, that she received from her parents. She was a rich girl.

Q: Why do you think that these educated girls are falling for such useless type of boys?

A: According to me, it may be because in general Muslim men are good looking as compared to other men. It may be little easy for them to seduce these girls.

Q: Do you think there may be some other way also?

A: I really don't know. As one of the girl's case I know, she had fallen in love with a Muslim auto driver and the reason she gave was that he was very kind to her. I don't think these LOVE JIHAD marriages are a success because I don't know how they can live with a person who is way below their intellectual level and understanding.

Q.: Do you think they may be using drugs?

A: I never really had a chance to talk to the girls directly. I have just talked with their parents and they too are in a shock as to how these girls could run away. Christians are also saying the same thing. The bishop issued a letter to the parents to take care of such issues.

Q : What kind of a paper is Janmabhumi?

A: It is a daily paper, with a circulation of 30,000 papers per day.

Mr E : How many cases are being reported in the high court?

A: There is a particular thing in Kerala that nothing against the Muslims should come out in the open. Court has no control over it.

Q : Why is this so?

A: In Kerala, it is just a case of Muslim votes that the parties want to bank on. It is a division on the basis of votes.

Q: So these parties are talking about terrorism openly?

A: Yes they are and the government doesn't do a thing.

Q: Have you tried to trace the details of the boys' families who are involved in these cases, as a journalist?

A: No because there are a very few cases that I have been able to put my hand on to. I have just written about the various reported cases. The police investigations here are biased.

There is an acute pressure on people to get converted.

Q: Why do you think that there is such a pressure and where do they get the finances?

A: As I said, the police here are very biased and they say that there is no such kind of pressure or movement and they can't find a source of income.

But I am positive that they are being financed from abroad. Jihadis are trained here in training camps also. We have to be very careful because these are very dangerous people and we have to risk our lives to go there and report LOVE JIHAD trainings. So we can go there only after these activities are over, and then report.

Q: Have you received any threats?

A: Yes I have, and they have asked me as if I am an anti-Muslim? to which I reply that no, I am anti-conversions. We can give you the papers and copies of my column where these cases have been reported.

Q: What kind of suggestion you would like to give so that such kind of things can be avoided?

A: I say that mothers are neglecting girls and that is why they stray. There is no interaction between mothers and their daughters. Many girls I come across say that their mothers don't find time for them. The mobile thing is a main weapon for LOVE JIHAD. One case was where I went to enquire about the suicide of three

girls, who belonged to very poor families. They were in 12th standard. We later came to know that they had been given mobile phones by their lovers (Muslims). They had been taken to some remote places and were raped and their pictures were taken, with which they were blackmailed to become prostitutes, to which they refused and committed suicide.

I wanted to know that what your objectives are? Are you faced with similar problems?

We are from different fields and our main reason is the concern for this kind of a problem which has surfaced in many parts of the country, particularly in Kerala. We decided to make a concrete effort and take a true stand and give a voice for justice.

8) RESHMA D/O VILASINI, R/O VELLANGALLU, IRINJALAKUDA:

Q : What is your name and educational background?

A : Reshma, doing Civil Engineering, First Year, Royal ITC College.

Q: Tell us everything in detail, whatever happened with you.

A : I was studying in first year when one fine day I received a missed call on my phone. I thought that it was a prank of one of my friends and so I called up and scolded him a lot. After that he used to call daily and soon we became friends. He told me that his name was Shahnawaz, but his actual name was different which I came to know later.

Q: Did you already have a mobile phone?

A : Yes.

After that our relationship was exposed in front of my parents. After, what all told me, I myself thought that it was wise to leave the relationship. After that he came to meet me after 6 months and again called me and started talking. He also asked me whether I will come with him. He told me that he doesn't have anyone else and he will die if she doesn't come with him.

Q: After how much time of your relationship on phone did you meet him?

A : I met him 4 times at a bus stand nearby before and even after when my parents came to know.

Q: When he met you, did he give you juice or Ice Cream or anything edible?

A : He offered me but I didn't have anything.

Q: Even during your friendship you never accepted anything from him?

A : No.

Q: As it a simple friendship or did you both go out to some cafe or gardens?

A : For two months we just spoke on phone and after that he proposed me and it turned into an affair. No we never went to park or cinemas. He told me that he was 26 years old but it was only later that I came to know that he was 30 years old. He also told me that he had a real estate business.

Q: How did he get your number?

A : He had told me that my number was similar to that of one of his friends. So while giving him a missed call, it was accidentally dialed to me. Once this relation was known to my parents, my education was stopped. After six months he came back and met me. It was later that I came to know that during these six months he was in jail due to Goonda ACT.

Q: Was he already married?

A: Yes and he had a 4 year old child in Pattanamthitta. On November 11th 2009 he came to pick me up and we went to Tiruvalla. There we took a house on rent, and we had a cook also. It was then that things started to become clear to me. His real name was different and not Shahnawaz. He himself then told me that he was in jail during these six months because of Goonda ACT. And he would have to serve another year in jail. He also had lots of cases against him. He also told me that he had a wife and a 4 year old kid but he was ready to leave them and marry me. His first wife was a Christian before being converted to Islam.

Q: Did he tell you to convert to Islam?

A: Yes. He told me that if we wanted to stay together I must convert to Islam. I would have been converted had I stayed there a little longer.

Q: A Muslim can marry many girls, so why did he say that he will divorce his first wife? Did you ask him to get divorced?

A: No he himself told me that he will divorce his first wife.

Q: What was the root cause of your loving him?

A: He used to constantly praise me and talk good with me. With all this constant flattering, a girl would normally fall in love.

Q: What was your reaction after knowing the truth about him?

A: I became very angry and asked him why he didn't tell me before. He said that if he had told me the truth, I would not have come with him. He said that he lied because he loved me so much and didn't want to loose me. After knowing all about him, I wanted to come back, but I was afraid.

Q: During that six month span, did you really like him?

A: Yes

Q: After the relationship initially started, what was the mode of communication between you both? Did you meet him outside or it was just through phone?

A: It was just through phone that our relation progressed.

Q: Were your or his friends were knowing of your relationship? And who are your friends?

A: Yes my friends knew about it. They were Muslims, Hindus and Christians, not of any particular religion. And my friends told me that the relationship was not good and asked me to avoid it. His friends never came to meet me.

Q: Did you go to parks, restaurants, hotels etc?

A: He had asked me to go out with him, but I never did.

Q: When did you first meet him?

A: At a nearby bus stand. He had told me to stand at a particular location and then he had come and introduced himself to me.

Q: Was he good looking? How was his appearance?

A: He was a normal person, but yes he had an executive look.

Q: Did you receive any gifts from him?

A: Yes, once he had given me a mobile phone when my parents had snatched away my phone after discovering our relation. (Mother adds that just two days after she received the mobile phone from him, she ran away)

Q : How did your parents come to know?

A : One of my relatives had seen us together at the bus stand and then informed my parents.

Q : Did he use to praise about Islam to you?

A : Yes he always used to. But he never gave me any Islamic literature (Quran). But he was always telling me that Islam was very good.

Q : Do you have any other siblings?

A : Yes a sister in 12th.

Q : Are you feeling bad for whatever happened with you?

A : Yes I feel a lot.

Q : What advice do you want to give to other girls so that they don't fall into such kind of things?

A : What can I say about that.

Q : Where is he now?

A : He has lots of contact. We can't know where he is.

Q : Till how much time were you together in Tiruvalla?

A : 25 days. Even after running away he used to phone my parents and told them that he had run away with me, and that he was in Kottayam. But it was later that my parents came to know that he was in Ernakulam. (As traced by police)

Q : Did you get married?

A : No. He said that he can't marry because of the cases against him. The police found out my location and rescued me. The police called him up and told him that if he didn't bring the girl back he would get into serious trouble, and it was then that I was able to come back.

Q : Do any of your friends have had a similar problem?

A : No.

Q : Does he call you even now?

A : Yes he threatens me now and then. Even day before yesterday he had threatened me. He used to call on my neighbour's phone.

Mr C : How did he have the neighbour's phone?

A : When I was with him, my parents used to call me from the neighbour's phone, so, that is, how he got his number. He used to threaten to kill me. Police are always on the vigil. Day before yesterday, two people had come on bikes and stayed outside for sometime before going back. They thought that we had deserted the house because nowadays we shut down all the lights and doors by 8 pm.

Q : Did you file a police complaint at that time?

A : Yes, but then I took it back because the police said that as I was a major, they could only file a rape case and I didn't want that.

Q : During the 25 days, did he show you any Islamic / Jehadi CDs? Did anyone from mosque visit you?

A : No.

Mr C : Who filed the complaint?

A : Father. He was a painter but now he is not working because of accident. The case was filed just the next day.

9) SEETHALAKSHMI (24 YEARS) : BHAGEERATHI & RAMARAJU (PARENTS' VERDICT) :

Q : What is she doing?

A : She has completed 12th and pre primary TTC. We had last seen her on November 23rd. It has been one and a half months and we have not seen her still.

According to the police complaint filed, she was working as a sales girl in a textiles shop. On 23rd November she went to her job as usual but she didn't reach the place, and she has been missing since.

There was a Muslim cloth cutter at her working place and he too went missing some days after our daughter was missing. He had given a missed call on our number before our daughter went missing and through cyber sleuths we found out his name. Further we found out that the guy was married and divorced twice. Till now he has not been found. And we don't have any idea whether they were in a relationship.

Q : What is his name?

A : Siraj. He is 41 years old. We came to know about his character through his parents when police went to enquire about him. They said that we don't have anything to do with him, do whatever you want to do. He is not a good man. He used to regularly go to Bengaluru and Mumbai and we fear that he might have taken her also.

Q : Was there any change in her behaviour during the one month Siraj had worked there?

A : No. There was no change in her behaviour. But yes certain neighbours have informed us that they used to see her talking through the pay phone very often, which was on the way to her bus stand. We don't have a mobile phone but just a reliance landline with id tracer. Three days back, before she went missing, we had received a missed call from that number, which I had noted down. When I asked her, she had said that she doesn't know to whom the number belongs. Two days before she went missing, she had taken leave from her office at 11 am saying that she has to go to municipality (saying that I had told her) and she had come to home only at 1:30 pm. We came to know all this only later.

Q : What is the police doing now?

A : They are saying that investigations are on. There are no further advances. We have not filed the Habeas Corpus.

**10) RAJANI (22 YEARS OLD) :
SADASIVAN AND MAYA, R/o Kodenkallor (PARENT'S VERDICT) :**

Q : How did this start?

A : She used to tell us that she is going to the temple and then used to go out daily, we never came to know of this. Our elder daughter was married. We had fixed Rajani's marriage and on the third day after that, she ran away with Bashir. They registered their marriage and were living together in his home. Bashir and his mother tortured her physically and mentally to convert to Islam and so she came back to her parents. But he used to come over and regularly threaten her that if she didn't convert to Islam, he would kill her. So she committed suicide.

Q : Was she not knowing that he was a Muslim and she would have to live according to a Muslim when she ran away with him?

A : Yes she knew he was a Muslim, but she was not told at that time that she would have to change her religion. It was after one month that his family members forced her to convert to Islam and told her not to come to this

home unless she converts. They forcefully took her to Ponnani twice. So she came back and stayed with us for an year before committing suicide. During this one year he was also staying with us in our house. He was always drunk.

Q : Did he demand anything?

A : Yes, we had 7 cents of land and he told us to hand over the papers. We recently came to know that before this affair started, he was already having an affair with another girl, who was also a Hindu, and he had forced her also to convert to Islam.

Q : What about that girl?

A : She is fine now.

Q : Is the guy's mother also a convict in this case?

A : Yes she is but the police have arrested only the boy. But he got a bail for 2 lakhs and now he is out.

Q : Do you have any contact with the girl? How?

A : One day when he was living with us, he had got a call on his phone which our daughter had received, and it was from the other girl. It was then that she came to know about his affair.

Q : Was he good looking?

A : He was normal. He had a traditional look.

Q : What is he doing now?

A : He still comes to our home and threaten us that he will settle the scores if we don't withdraw our case back. Initially he wanted half of the property but now he has stopped.

Q : Did you file a case when he used to threaten your family?

A : No because he threatened to harm my daughter.

Q : What is the name of your advocate?

A : Mr. Vasantkumar.

Q : Did you know about their affair when you had fixed up your daughter's marriage?

A : No.

Q : Did she give any indication that she was very upset before committing suicide?

A : He used to regularly get drunk and beat her up and they used to have fights very often but apart from that there was no other indication that she was going to end her life. They used to make up also after the fights.

Q : Where did she die?

A : In the sit-out. (Submits the suicide letter).

11) RAMYA SHRI KRISHNANUNNI (FATHER) AND SUNITHA (MOTHER) AND JAYESH (COUSIN BROTHER) VERDICT:

She was 21 years old, and completed her course in travels and tourism.

Q : How many siblings were they?

A : Three. Ramya was the elder one and two brothers.

Q : What happened exactly?

A : She went missing since December 12th 2009. We filed a police complaint immediately and a week later we filed a habeas corpus in high court.

Q : What is the name of the advocate?

A : Mr. Sujoy Venkatesh.

Q : So what happened next ?

A : They surrendered within 10 days on 22nd December. She was with a guy called Razak. They were classmates.

Q : Classmates since?

A : Degree.

Q : What was the boy's age?

A : 23 years old. She now says she wants to live with the boy. The High Court has directed the girl to stay in a hostel for a month. We have initiated the process against registered marriage.

Q : Have you raised any objections?

A : Yes.

Q : What are your grievances?

A : We are from a traditional Brahmin family. The girl's father is a temple priest and they earn their livelihood in this way. It has seriously affected him. The main problem is that the boy has not graduated till now and has not got a job.

Q : Did he receive any incentives?

A : Not that we know of, but the Muslim society is helping him.

Q : Have the parents noticed some change in her attitude after this issue?

A : She was gloomy for some 12 days. She was not even calling her mother as amma. She became totally secluded.

Q : Has she been converted?

A : She has not been converted till now, but there is a 100% chance that she will be converted.

Q : Do the girl's parents have some property? That might be the reason she has not been converted till now, because she may be a legal heir to the property.

A : Yes they have some property.

Q : Any demands of property?

A : Not till now.

Q : During the 10 days that she stayed with you, did she perform any Muslim rituals?

A : No.

Q : Why she stayed in hostel?

A : She told the court that she didn't want to stay with the parents because of the pressure, so the court directed her to stay in a hostel.

Q : Do you think she might have been hypnotized ?

A : Not like that, I think it might be a case of blackmail through pornography.

Q : Did she disclose anything about their relation during that 10 days with you?

A : No, she talked very little. She just replied to our questions and that too very little. She initially told us that she will stay with us for our sake but later she backed out. We want the court to extend her stay in the hostel for a month more so that she can change her mind.

As per information received and certain report shown to us, it transpires that girls who are either kidnapped or abducted or have eloped are either missing or untraceable since then. It is unfortunate that there whereabouts are neither known to the parents of either girl or boy.

CONCLUSION

Keeping in view the oral statements made by the aggrieved persons, aggrieved parents and social activists, including the observation made by the Hon'ble Justice Sankaran of Kerala High Court, on the basis of the reports placed before him and study made by the Social Activists, news papers and other persons following inferences may be drawn:-

- a) The incidents which were reported in the newspaper, were not actually camouflaged but in fact such incidents are happening in the State of Kerala.
- b) More or less the modus operandi of the incident is similar and in most of the cases the love affair is started by sending SMSes, missed calls on the Mobile Phone, phone call etc. At the first instance it is passed off as the genuine love but later on as and when it is found convenient the process of conversion is also started. In some cases it turns into conversion while in other cases though not matured but initial steps indicates towards the same.
- c) Mobile shops are genesis of such incidents as the girls used to go for getting recharge of their mobile sim where naturally their number gets leaked. Such social miscreants who are hand and glove with such shop-keepers, gets access to the number as well other particulars of the girl. The Ice Cream and Juice Parlors are generally the initial meeting points.
- d) Probability of Foreign funding, the use of converted girls for supplying to terrorists / used for terrorism as well the use of the girls for immoral traffic cannot be ruled out. There is necessity and further scope for probe in such matters as there are news / certain items on internet which reflects not only the hearsay but the first hand information. If we go through the incident of Sikh Girls who was taken from England to Pakistan it shaken the human right activists that such barbaric and immoral acts are happening now a days when the world society is moving towards so much advancement and possessing high awareness against the human exploitation.

The reports that the boys though not having financially sound position, are able to give presents like Mobile etc. to the girls and even use new two wheelers and four wheelers suggests out side funding.

- e) In such acts of the boys, though parents do not support directly but young boys as well as other persons of the same community not only give them outright support to such miscreants but try to create terror also.
- f) That in certain cases hypnotism, psychological substances and other mode of winning the favour, are also used. In most of the cases the ultimate fate of the girl becomes miserable but at such stage even the parents of the affected girls are not prepared to accept the girls which drives them to commit suicide and in other cases the girls have to live the life of hell.
- g) The attitude of the police from top to bottom, is generally to conceal such incidents rather than to take effective steps to curb this phenomenon. Even politicians are found to be indifferent in view of vote bank calculations.

- h) The social groups, social activists and media are playing very responsible role in this matter but the government is not serious in taking cognizance of such a major phenomenon having long term repercussions for the society. The probability of similar incidence happening may not be ruled out, in other States also there are certain information or reports in the media as well as on the internet in regard to such incidents and the matter has to be further probed in this line.
- i) In all of the cases which came to the notice of the Fact Finding Committee, the boys were of Muslim faith while the girls were either Christians or Hindu. The democratic set-up of the Kerala State is such that all these three communities have good proportion. Such incidence may break the communal harmony of the State which may result in a major law and order problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Lectures, symposiums and NGOs awakening programme including informative literature, to be organised in schools and colleges by the social activists, college / school administration and by the government itself so that the innocent girls may be saved from becoming prey to such social miscreants.
2. The parents ought to be advised, counselled and awakened in regard of the activities of their girls in such workshops mentored by psychologists, social activists, and senior police officials.
3. To check such incidents and monitor the same from time to time a special cell of the police at the State Level as well as at the district level may be formed in all the states. To assist the police agencies and to maintain the social harmony a Counseling Committee may also be constituted in each of the district, having representation of Hindu, Muslim and Christians.
4. A probe at the higher level by the Central Government should be made in regard of foreign funding, immoral traffic and use of girls for terrorist activities is necessary so that democratic structure of the State and Country may be saved as well the human rights of a common man may be protected.
5. Anti-conversion Law may be enacted to curb such illegal conversion, as also suggested by the Union of India, before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in Sahanshah and Shirajuddin matter. (Justice T. Sankaran)
6. A probe of this nature should also to be made in this regard in other states as well a cell to be established at least at the State level to check, monitor, investigate and curb such activities.
7. Human right organizations also have to play an important role to prevent such incidents.
8. Central Government should examine thoroughly and investigate in detail and take effective steps to check this menace.

GRATITUDE

Before parting with this report we consider it our sacred duty to place on record our gratitude to the victim families and their sympathisers and social organizations who came in to interact with us and who gave us valuable inputs on the prevailing condition. We also express our gratitude towards the Honourable Trustees of the Voice for Justice who reposed their confidence in us and gave us an opportunity to participate in this National Cause of spreading awareness about the plight affecting people of our Country.

Chennai

Date : March 15, 2011

Justice Shri. Surendra Bharghav

Chairman

Shri. T.S. Rao, IPS

Member

Shri. Gurcharan Singh Gill

Member

Dr. I.B. Vijayalakshmi, MD., DM

Member

Dr. Suvarna Rawal

Member

Shri. P. Ganapathi

Member

Shri. S. Ravi

Member

Shri. Rammesh P. Garg

Member

APPENDIX I

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE K T.SANKARAN

WEDNESDAY, THE 9TH DECEMBER 2009 / 18TH AGRAHAYANA 1931

Bail Appl.No. 5288 of 2009

CRIME NO.1102 OF 2009 OF THIRIPUNITHURA HILL PALACE POLICE STATION

PETITIONERS: ACCUSED 1 & 2:

1. SHAHAN SHA A, AGED 23,
S/O. AKBAR SHA,
KEECHERIYIL HOUSE, PETTA,
PATHANAMTHITTA.
2. SIRAJUDEEN M, AGED 27,
S/O. MEERA SAHIB, KOTHUVAL VEEDU,
PETTA,PATHANAMTHITTA.

BY ADV. SRI.K.S.MADHUSOODANAN
SRI.T.V.JAYAKUMAR NAMBOODIRI
SRI.THUSHAR NIRMAL SARATHY
SRI.M.M.VINOD KUMAR
SMT.K.M.RAMYA

RESPONDENT: COMPLAINANT & FORMAL PARTY:

STATE OF KERALA,
REP. BY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
CANTONMENT SUB DIVISION,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM CITY.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PROSECUTION SRI.V.G.GOVINDAN NAIR
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.C.K.SURESH
PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SRI.M.S.BREEZ
SRI.T.P.M IBRAHIM KHAN(ASST SOLICITOR)
SRI.MANJERI SUNDERRAJ
SMT.K.K.PREETHA

THIS BAIL APPLICATION HAVING BEEN FINALLY HEARD
ON 09/12/2009, ALONG WITH BA NO.5289 OF 2009, THE COURT
ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

K.T.SANKARAN, J.

B.A. NOS. 5288 & 5289 OF 2009

Dated this the 9th day of December, 2009

ORDER

When these Bail Applications came up for hearing on 29th September 2009, the following order was passed:

"These Bail Applications are filed by Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen, the accused persons in Crime Nos.1102 of 2009 of Tripunithura Hill Palace Police Station and Crime No.451 of 2009 of Peroorkada Police Station, for anticipatory bail under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The offences alleged against them are under Sections 120-B, 295-A and 377 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

2. In this order, the names of the victim girls are not disclosed. No person, including the media, should disclose their names. For the sake of convenience, I would refer to the victim girls as the "Hindu girl" and the "Christian girl".

3. It would appear that the Hindu girl fell in love with Shahan Sha, the first petitioner in these Bail Applications. Shahan Sha is a Muslim. The victim girls were studying for MBA Course. They are friends. Shahan Sha was their senior student in the college. At one point of time, he was expelled from the college. It would appear that the

relationship between the Hindu girl and Shahan Sha started as a result of a telephone call. The intimacy developed. From the inception onwards, it is alleged that Shahan Sha spoke ill about Hindu religion and its tenets, beliefs and traditions. The Hindu girl was taken to Shahan Sha's house. She was taught the custom of the Muslim community, the mode of prayers and what should be done by a person in the normal life as a Muslim. Shahan Sha's mother was there in the house and she co-operated with Shahan Sha. Shahan Sha was constantly compelling the girl to convert to Islam. She was in utter confusion. It is alleged that Shahan Sha stated to the girl that unless she converted into Islam immediately, their relationship would come to an end. At last, she agreed.

4. In the meanwhile, Shahan Sha and the Hindu girl had contact with one Shaji, who was running a DTP Centre. Shahan Sha and the girl used to go there for taking copies of documents. It is alleged that Shaji used to speak ill about Hindu and Christian religions. The Hindu girl and the Christian girl used to go to the shop of Shaji. The girls were also told that their respective religion is not good and the only way to attain salvation is to embrace Islam.

5. Without the knowledge of the Christian girl, the Hindu girl was once taken to Ponnani by Shahan Sha. They stayed in a room. It would appear that Shahan Sha made some sexual advances towards her. However, it did not culminate in sexual intercourse.

6. The pressure mounted on the two girls to convert to Islam. They were directed to meet a person in a mosque. He also pressurized them to immediately convert to Islam. The girls were directed to come out of their house. Planning was made and the girls were instructed to comply with the directions given by Shahan Sha and his associates.

7. Accordingly, at about 3 AM on 18.7.2009, the Hindu girl was ready to come out of her residence. After some time, one Yasin gave her a missed call, which was the indication to come out of the house. She came out of the house with the help of Yasin. She was taken in a Scorpio car. Two ladies wearing Pardah were there in the car. After the Hindu girl entered into the car, she was compelled to wear Pardah. She obeyed.

8. While travelling in the car, the compact discs of Popular Front, an alleged extremist organisation, was being played. They proceeded to Ernakulam.

9. The Christian girl also came out of her residence in the early hours in a similar manner. The persons who took the Christian girl met the Hindu girl at Ernakulam. The Hindu girl was taken to a house at Ernakulam in a different car. In that car, one Ali and Nishad, stated to be the activists of Popular Front, were travelling. The Christian girl was also brought to that house.

10. The girls were directed to contact their parents over mobile phone from a place different from the place

where they were taken, in order to avoid locating them by ascertaining the mobile tower station. Accordingly, from a different place, they contacted their parents and as directed, they stated to their parents that they were going to Ponnani to convert to Islam. The telephone call was snapped thereafter. The two girls stayed in the house at Ernakulam till the next day. On the next day, they were taken by one Khadeeja, who is stated to be the organiser of the Women Wing of Popular Front. One Nishad was also there with her. They took the girls in a Lancer car to Malappuram. They reached the residence of Haneefa Haji. After ten minutes, they were taken to another house at Kondotty. They were made to stay there for two weeks. Thereafter, they were taken to the house of Haneefa Haji, where they stayed for two weeks. The girls were visited by the members of Popular Front regularly.

11. There is no case that the Christian girl was in love with anybody. But when the girls were staying at the house of Haneefa Haji, several persons were brought to that house to see the Christian girl. Though a Dentist who came to see the Christian girl was willing to marry her, his parents were not willing. It is alleged that the proposal was to give in marriage the girls to somebody else. On 6.8.2009, Shahan Sha and one Shiraj met the Hindu girl and asked her whether she was willing to marry Shahan Sha. The girls came to know that the plan was to take them to Bangalore and to give them in marriage to somebody else. Two or three persons came there to see the Christian girl and to marry her. At last, Shahan Sha brought his friend

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Sirajudeen, (the second petitioner) a K.S.R.T.C. Bus conductor to the scene.

12. Meanwhile, a Habeas Corpus petition was filed by the parents of the missing girls. A direction was issued by a Division Bench of this Court to find the whereabouts of the missing girls. On 12.8.2009, the girls were taken by Shahan Sha and Shiraj to an Advocate's office at Calicut. Two "deeds of agreements to marry" were executed. The girls were made to sign the documents. One agreement was between Shahan Sha and the Hindu girl and the other was between Sirajudeen and the Christian girl. They were brought back to Haneefa Haji's house. During night, Shahan Sha stayed with the Hindu girl and Sirajudeen stayed with the Christian girl. On that night, the Christian girl was subjected to unnatural sex. It is alleged that an offence under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was committed.

13. Later, Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen appeared before the High Court along with the girls. The girls were not willing to go with their parents. The court persuaded them. At last, they agreed. It was with certain conditions that they were prepared to go with their parents. Those conditions were stipulated by Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen. After a few days, the girls appeared before Court and stated that they were not willing to go with Shahan Sha and Shirajudeen. The Division Bench permitted the girls to go with their parents. However, the articles belong to the girls were with Shahan Sha and Shirajudeen. It would appear that they "gracefully" agreed to return the articles to the girls.

The Division Bench was also pleased to pass an order not to arrest Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen for a limited period. The Division Bench made an attempt to settle the matter between the parties. The parents of the girls stated that they were not willing for a settlement. Their view was that let the law take its own course. The Habeas Corpus petition is stated to be pending.

14. The case diary would further reveal that several compact discs were given by Shahan Sha to the girls. Most of them were obscene films. Several books were also given to them to persuade them to convert to Islam.

15. The girls stated to the police that Shahan Sha and Shaji specifically directed them not to disclose to the police that the activists belonging to Popular Front were assisting Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen for implementing the idea of converting the girls to Islam. The girls are of the view that in the whole episode, their religious faith was questioned and Shahan Sha, Shaji and Sirajudeen insulted the religious faith and tenets of the respective religion of the girls with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging their religious feelings.

16. I have perused the case diary file. There are indications that several similar instances took place in the State of Kerala. It is stated that there is a movement or project which is called "Romeo Jihad" or "Love Jihad" conceived by a section of the Muslims. The idea appears to be to convert girls belonging to other religions to Islam. It is

stated that Muslim boys are directed to pretend love to girls of other religion and get them converted to Islam. Lot of money is available for executing the project. There are men whose help is available at any time. Organisations are also there to implement the project.

17. Before disposing of these Bail Applications, I am of the view that some additional information with regard to the number of similar cases which occurred during the last three years in the State of Kerala is required. The Director General of Police shall file a statement within a period of three weeks from today, touching upon the following aspects: (1) Whether there is a movement called "Romeo Jihad" or "Love Jihad" working in the State of Kerala? (2) If so, what are their plans and projects? (3) Which organisations are involved in such activities? (4) Where does the money come from for all these activities? (5) How many school and college students and youngsters were thus converted into Islam during the last three years? (6) Does the alleged project involve an all India basis and magnitude? (7) Has it got financial support from abroad? (8) Is there any connection between the "Love Jihad" movement and counterfeiting, smuggling, drug trafficking and terrorist activities?

18. Every citizen of India is entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion as enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution of India. This right does not extend to the right to compel a person professing a religion to convert to

another religion. Compulsion is alien to the right conferred under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. The freedom of one man should not entitle him to encroach upon the freedom of another.

19. In the facts and circumstances, I think the views of the Central Government are also material in deciding the questions involved in the case. Issue notice to the Assistant Solicitor General of India. Registry shall furnish a copy of the Bail Applications and a copy of this order to the Assistant Solicitor General of India. A copy of this order shall also be communicated by the Registry to the Secretary, Home Affairs, New Delhi. A statement shall be filed by the appropriate person on behalf of the Central Government pointing out their views in the matter of combating the activities of compulsive conversion of religion. The statement shall also indicate all the necessary information regarding "Romeo Jihad" or "Love Jihad". The statement shall be filed within three weeks.

20. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the Division Bench was pleased to issue an order not to arrest the petitioners till 30.9.2009, pending disposal of the Habeas Corpus Petition. The counsel submitted that there may be an interim direction not to arrest the petitioners. I am not inclined to pass any such order in the facts and circumstances of the case.

21. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the Division Bench was convinced that no offence was

committed by Shahan Sha and Shirajudeen and, therefore, there is no ground on which anticipatory bail should be refused to the petitioners. I am not inclined to accept the contention of the learned counsel for the petitioners. The question whether Shahan Sha and Shirajudeen were guilty of any offence was not in issue before the Division Bench. Therefore, there was no opportunity for the Division Bench to pronounce upon such matters. In fact, the Division Bench has not stated anything, in the various orders passed by them, on that aspect.

22. The counsel argued that the victim girls were present before the High Court on three occasions and the Honourable Judges of the Division Bench had occasion to interact with the girls. The counsel points out that the girls did not state to the Honourable Judges that they (the girls) were compelled to convert to Islam or that the offence alleged was committed by Shahan Sha and Sirajudeen. I do not think that this is a material fact while considering the application for anticipatory bail. The questions which came up for consideration before the Division Bench were entirely different. The orders passed by the Division Bench do not, in my view, affect the investigation of the case or the arrest of the petitioners. Post after two weeks.”

2. The Director General of Police, Kerala, filed a statement dated 18th October 2009, the relevant portion of which is extracted below:

“2. It is submitted that on receipt of the order dated 29.10.2009, enquiries were made to ascertain whether any such compulsive religious conversion in the manner referred to in the order is taking place in the State of Kerala. The enquiries thus conducted have yielded the following information with regard to the questions raised by this Hon'ble Court in respect of compulsive conversion.

Qn. (1) Whether there is a movement called “Romeo Jihad” or “Love Jihad” working in the State of Kerala ?

Ans. No organization or movement called “Love Jihad” or “Romeo Jihad” is so far identified as working in Kerala.

Qn. (2) If so, what are their plans and projects ?

Ans. As stated above, there is no clear evidence regarding the operation of such an organization.

Qn.(3) Which organizations are involved in such activities ?

Ans. It is not established that any particular organization is actively engaged in such compulsive religious conversions.

Qn.(4) Where does the money come from for all these activities?

Ans. No reliable evidence is so far available in this regard.

Qn.(5) How many School and College students and youngsters were thus converted into Islam during the last three years?

Ans. Except for the two cases under consideration now, no specific complaints have been received regarding such compulsive love based conversions. In the two cases under consideration before the Hon'ble Court, Police have registered cases and are actively investigating the matter.

Qn.(6) Does the alleged project involve an all India basis and magnitude?

Ans. There is no clear evidence so far regarding this aspect.

Qn.(7) Has it got financial support from abroad ?

Ans. There is no reliable evidence so far regarding financial support from abroad.

Qn.(8) Is there any connection between the 'Love Jihad' Movement and counterfeiting, smuggling, drug trafficking and terrorist activities ?

Ans. There is no concrete information regarding this.

3. Further, it is humbly submitted that certain allegations have recently cropped up indicating that some organizations have devised plans for compulsive or deceitful religious conversions by winning over girls. The Police is seriously looking into these allegations and appropriate legal action would be initiated if the allegations are found to be true in any particular instance. No actionable information has been received by the Police so far to confirm the fact that any organization is indulging in such activities.

4. However, it is understood that a very large number of inter-religious marriages are taking place every year and that many conversions are taking place on that basis. The exact details or the exact numbers of such marriages are not readily available with any police agency. At the same time, there are reasons to suspect that there are concerted attempts to persuade girls to change their religion after they fall in love with Muslim boys. There is also unconfirmed source information received by the department that some groups are actively working among youngsters encouraging conversions by such techniques; that young men who are engaged in such pursuits are said to be receiving funds from abroad directly or indirectly for purchasing clothes and vehicles and for availing legal help etc.; that they have links with other places in India also.

5. In view of the existence of such complaints, allegations and source information, the Police are now actively trying to collect maximum information in this regard and to specifically identify actionable instances. The fact is that hardly anybody comes forward with any complaint to the Police in these matters. However, the Police will remain pro actively vigilant and take action in all instances where any reasonable suspicion exists that undesirable illegal liaisons are being attempted with any ulterior purpose of compulsive conversion.

6. It is humbly submitted that police would take stern lawful action against compulsive or deceitful religious conversions whenever and wherever such incidents are discovered. The intelligence agencies of the Kerala Police are also being tasked to monitor the activities of any organizations and groups alleged to be indulging in compulsive religious conversion.”

3. When the Bail Applications came up for hearing, it was noticed that some of the answers furnished in the Statement filed by the Director General of Police are vague and that many of the statements do not reconcile with each other. The Director General of Police was directed to produce in a sealed cover the reports which he received from the District Superintendents of Police and/or any other subordinate officers and all

other materials on the basis of which the statement was prepared. It was also observed that the Director General of Police may also file an additional statement, if found necessary by him.

4. Accordingly, the Director General of Police filed another statement dated 9th November 2009. For the sake of completeness and convenience, the statement is extracted below:

“It is submitted that this Hon'ble Court, by order dated 29.09.2009, had directed me to file a statement and to give answers to eight questions specified in the order. Accordingly, I had submitted a statement before this Hon'ble Court based on information available from subordinate units. After perusing my statement, this Hon'ble Court vide order dated 26.10.2009 directed me to produce the reports and materials based on which my statement was submitted and also to file an additional statement, if felt necessary. Accordingly, this statement is filed.

2. I submit that the separate answers to the eight specific questions raised by this Hon'ble Court were made on the basis of the contents of the reports received from various subordinate officers, through written reports and oral submissions from them. The confirmation of the oral submissions also were

subsequently received in writing. Such information indicated that no concrete and sustainable evidence was available to establish that an organized movement called 'Love Jihad' was operating in the State of Kerala. There was no reliable evidence in such reports to indicate a specific positive or definitive answer to many of the questions posed by the Hon'ble Court.

3. I submit that, at the same time, as part of the above reports, I had received some information from some units based on source inputs, which suggested the clandestine designs of certain groups aimed at religious conversion through deceitful means, inter alia, under the guise of love. These inputs form part of reports marked No.16 to 18 in the sealed cover. The contents of these reports were relevant to the questions posed by this Hon'ble Court but were at variance with the contents of the other 15 reports. At the same time, the contents of these three reports also were not backed up with supportive evidence to come to a positive finding. Mention was made of these aspects also in the latter part of the statement dated 18.10.09 submitted before this Hon'ble Court to give a complete picture of the matter. The information contained in the three reports, though not substantiated, was relevant in the consideration of the questions put to me by this Hon'ble Court and hence I had submitted those aspects also.

4. It was specifically submitted in para 4 of my report dated 18.10.09 that this part was based on source information. Source reports are often based on hearsay. They are usually not supported by any direct evidence. Such reports often require to be clarified and substantiated by sustainable evidence. They also cannot be asserted as true unless there is supporting material. It may be noted that no cogent and coherent materials were available in the three reports mentioned above to make an unambiguous statement regarding the truth of the allegation of compulsive religious conversion. However, the contents of the said reports warranted further enquiries which I had caused to be made, as already submitted in para 05 of my report dated 18.10.2009.

5. It is further submitted that my separate answers to the specific questions are based on such set of facts which could be substantiated by reliable evidence. However, the substance of the source information based on which enquires were taking place were also brought to the notice of this Hon'ble Court. It is respectfully submitted that I could not come to a definite all-inclusive finding due to the divergence which existed in the contents of reports received from different subordinate units which formed the basis of my report to this Hon'ble Court. The reports so received are submitted herewith in a sealed cover, numbered as 1 to

18 as mentioned earlier, in obedience to the direction of this Hon'ble Court.”

5. I have examined the eighteen numbers of reports produced in the sealed cover. Fourteen out of the eighteen reports are cryptic. One report says: “ I am herewith forwarding a NIL report favour of information and further necessary action”. The other thirteen reports generally answer question No.1 as “not detected in the..... District”, “the activities of ‘Romeo Jihad’ or ‘Love Jihad’ has not been noticed so far in the District”, “not working in the District”, “there is no such organization working in the District” etc. The rest of the questions are answered as “NA” or “not applicable”. No useful information, either way, is disclosed in the aforesaid fourteen reports. It is also not stated in the reports on what materials or information or enquiry those reports were prepared.

6. One out of the eighteen reports mentions about the religious conversion centres run by Muslims and Hindus in Kozhikode city.

7. Three out of eighteen reports, provide some details. One report says about the functioning of an organization called ‘Smart Front’ in two colleges.

8. Another report says that the enquiry by the Special Branch

reveals that “fundamental outfits like NDF, PFI, Campus Front has roots in the college campuses” in the City referred to therein. Referring to Campus Front, it is stated in the report thus: “As per the available information, the plan of this organization is to trap brilliant upper caste Hindu and Christian girls from the well to do family, especially those who are studying for professional courses and employed in IT sectors.” It is also stated in the report thus:

“3. It is believed that Muslaim Organisation like Muslim Youth Forum and Musalim Womens organization like Thasreen Millat, Shaheen Force, Popular Front of India, National Democratic Front and its students organizations like Campus Front are the organizations behind the so called Love Jihad movement.

4. There is no concrete evidence to show the financial status of the organization. But it is known that they get support and financial assistance from National Democratic Front and Popular Front of India. Some other muslim fundamental organizations are also arranging money from some foreign countries in Gulf. But the veracity of this information has to be ascertained.”

9. The aforesaid report also says that more than 100 instances of religious conversion took place in Thiruvananthapuram District with the help of the activists of the organizations referred to above. The names

and address of the boys and girls in 31 such cases are shown in the report. The report further says:

“6. So far there is no evidence to show that the love jihad organizations have operations in all over India. But it is said that the programme was started during 1996 with the blessings of Muslim Organisations.

7. No reliable information has been received with regard to the financial assistance from abroad for the so called love jihad activities. But during the enquiry it was found that some active sympathizers had gone to Gulf and they are giving financial support to their supporters. But the veracity of this is yet to be ascertained.”

10. The last out of the eighteen reports contains the following details. There is no information that any organization under the name and style “Love Jihad” or “Romeo Jihad” is functioning in Kerala. However, the students wing of NDF and PFI, known as Campus Front is known to be promoting religious conversion in educational institutions and professional colleges. This report also mentions about the involvement of Muslim Youth Forum, Shaheen Force etc. in these activities. Certain organizations in Saudi Arabia are providing financial assistance to these activities under the head “scholarship” to the youth. Accurate number of religious conversions are not available. As per one statistics, during the last four years, a total number of about 3000 to 4000 religious

conversions after love affairs have taken place. Another statistics is that 2800 girls were thus converted into another religion. In Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram Districts, 1600 incidents of such conversions have taken place. The report also indicates about similar activities in Uttar Pradesh, Pune in Maharashtra, Bangalore in Karnataka where it is learnt that several Hindu girls were converted to Islam. The report concludes by saying that the Intelligence Wing is of the view that such love marriages may invite frictions in the society.

11. It is interesting to note that though the last mentioned report shows that 1600 incidents of conversions had taken place in Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode and Malappuram Districts, the reports received from the District Superintendents of those Districts do not indicate the same. It is also interesting to note that though the Superintendents of Police state that no incidents of such conversions were noticed, some of the superior officers have reported otherwise.

12. On 26-10-2009, the Assistant Solicitor General of India submitted that he had received oral instructions in the matter. He sought for further time to file a statement signed by a responsible person. Time was granted till 11th November 2009. On that date also, two weeks' further time was prayed for and it was granted. The case was posted to 1st December 2009. On that date, the Assistant Solicitor General

submitted that a statement was being filed. A copy of the statement was handed over in open court. The copy handed over was a letter dated 18th November 2009 sent by Sri. Y.K.Baweja, Director (NIC), Ministry of Home Affairs to the Assistant Solicitor General of India (enclosing the statement to be filed before High Court) and a copy of the statement. However, it was later reported by the Registry that no statement was filed in Court. The copy handed over in open court is taken on record. The submissions made by the Assistant Solicitor General of India were also in tune with the statement. The statement is not signed by anybody. In the statement submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs (referred to above), it is stated that secularism is a basic principle of the Indian Constitution. After quoting Article 25 of the Constitution of India, it is stated thus:

“2. The freedom guaranteed by the Constitution is to profess, practice, and propagate religion. The act of practice is concerned primarily with religious worship, ritual and observations. Propagation is concerned with right to communicate beliefs to another person or to expand the tenets of one’s religion but does not include a right to forcible or compulsive conversion. Any use of force or allurements for propagation of religion is illegal and may cause law and order problems. ‘Public Order’ and ‘Police’ are the State subjects as per the Constitution of India and hence prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes are primarily the concerns of the State Governments/ UT Administrations.

3. The State Governments can enact legislations providing for prohibition of conversions from one religion to another by use of force or by allurement/inducement or fraudulent means. The State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, by exercising their powers in this behalf, have enacted legislations to prohibit any person to convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to any other religious faith by the use of force or by inducement or by any fraudulent means, which are the measures to maintain public order. The Centre is not contemplating any move to make a centralized law on the issue."

13. Meanwhile, on 21st October 2009, the petitioners filed petition in each case to withdraw the Bail Applications. The relinquishment letter issued by the counsel appearing for the petitioners was also attached with the petitions. The Registry noted defect in the application. Instead of re-presenting the same, the petitioners sent the applications to the Registrar, High Court of Kerala, by registered post. The procedure adopted by the petitioners was not proper.

14. In the petition dated 21st October, 2009, the petitioners have narrated the various incidents and how they happened to take the girls out of their homes to rescue them from the alleged illegal confinement of their parents. It is also stated in the petition thus:

"5. Considering the feeling of insecurity, the 1st petitioner offered to marry Ms ----- (name omitted). The 2nd petitioner who had close acquaintance with the 2nd petitioner for nearly 2 years decided to marry Ms.----- (name omitted). Petitioners were advised to swear to an affidavit before the Notary to be shown before the police officials that they are together living as husband and wife and that there is no compulsion in their relationship and that they embraced Islam voluntarily without any force or coercion. The said affidavit was sworn on 12-8-09. On the same day evening, the petitioners married Ms. ----- and Ms. ----- respectively as per Islamic rites at the house of Haneefa Haji at Kozhikkode. Since the marriage was taken place not at the instance of any Mahal, no certificate could be obtained for proving marriage."

15. In paragraph 16 of the petition sent by the petitioners, it is stated thus:

"This Hon'ble Court by Order dated 29-9-09 was pleased to pass an elaborate order that has totally shattered the petitioners' faith in the impartiality of this Hon'ble Court. The use of Terminologies like Hindu Girl, Christian Girl and Muslim in the order virtually caused communal polarization across Kerala and even beyond Kerala Territory. Though the court, out of concern for the future of the "victim girls" preferred to keep their name in anonymity and preferred to call them as Hindu girl and Christian girl, not appreciating its

consequence of causing communal division in the society. The Court not satisfied by taking the name of the Petitioner, even described him as Muslim lest people may miss the religious identity of the Petitioner. The court just allowed it to be a ploy in the hands of the communal forces that laid the trap of dividing the society on communal grounds. What happened is unfortunate not only for the Petitioners but also for the institution as well. The damage it has done is colossal. The media also followed suit.”

16. In the petition, there are several other insinuations as well against the Court. After quoting several sentences in the order dated 29-9-2009, the petitioners have made comments which border on contempt of Court. I have no doubt that the petition was prepared by somebody else- not by the petitioners. The intention of making a scathing attack on Court is also obvious. However, I do not propose to proceed further in the matter. I am inclined to forget and forgive. The petitioners conclude the petition by quoting from the Holy Quraan. I quote the statement:

“In the circumstance Petitioners pray that the above petition for anticipatory bail may be allowed to be withdrawn as not pressed and we may be left to our fate allowing the law to take its own course for the Petitioners believe that “If Allah afflicts you with evil, none can remove it but HE: And if HE blesses you with good fortune, none can prevent it: Know

that HE has power over all things” (Quraan. Sura- 6 Verse 17.)”

17. I leave it at that. But, in the facts and circumstances of the case, I am not inclined to allow the petitioners to withdraw the Applications for Anticipatory Bail.

18. The “Association for Human Rights (AHR) has filed Criminal Miscellaneous Application No. 6651 of 2009 for the following reliefs:

“(A) ORDERS directing the Respondent State of Kerala, Kerala Police Department, the Media persons, Print and visual to refrain from and to avoid further deployment of the usage “LOVE JIHAD’ OR ‘Romeo Jihad” in relation to investigations of love trap cases conducted in Kerala: AND

(B) to pass such other or further orders as are in all the circumstances of the case deemed fit, just and necessary to restore sanity in public/civic life in the State of Kerala.”

Since the affected parties are not parties to the application and the subject matter dealt with in the application is beyond the scope of the matters involved in the case, I am not inclined to entertain the Application. Leaving open the right of the Petitioner in the application to seek appropriate remedy, Crl.Misc. Appln. No. 6651 of 2009 is dismissed.

19. Our nation consists of citizen belonging to different religions, communities, castes and creeds. All are citizens of India. All have equal rights. All the citizens have the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution. A citizen of India is entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion as enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution of India. Our laws do not prohibit inter-religious or inter-caste marriages. True, religions have their own sanctions, faith and culture. When pitted against the Constitution and the laws, the religious sanctions cannot override the former. Our Constitution and the laws take care of religious faith, traditions and custom.

20. Inter- religious marriages, arising out of love affairs or otherwise, are to recognized and promoted. To solemnize such marriages, there need necessarily be any conversion of one party to the marriage from one religion to another. If a boy or girl believes that a marital union is not possible without the other party to love converting to his or her religion, it is his or her faith. But in such cases, it is not love that is prominent, but religion. Forcible, compulsive or deceitful conversion take place in such cases. Nobody would say that it is a healthy trend. Love is divine. It has no barriers of religion, caste or creed. But under the pretext of love, there cannot be any forcible, compulsive or deceitful conversion. It destroys the divine and sublime love.

21. The Honourable Supreme Court in Lata Singh V. State of U.P. and another: (2006) 5 SCC 475 has emphasized the need for protecting the parties to inter –caste and inter- religious marriages. It was held: “This is a free and democratic country, and once a person becomes major he or she can marry whosoever he/she likes.”

22. From some of the reports submitted by the police officers concerned to the Director General of Police, it is clear that there is a concerted effort to convert girls belonging to particular religions to another religion. It is also clear that this is being done with the blessings of some outfits mentioned in the reports. This should be of great concern to the people at large and to the Government. The Government is bound to protect the fundamental rights and civil rights of citizens. Article 25 of the Constitution of India does not entitle a person to indulge in activities for compulsive religious conversion. Compulsion is alien to the right conferred under Article 25 of the Constitution of India. The freedom of one should not entitle him to grab the freedom of another.

23. The rights of the parents to bring up their children in the way all of them like, also cannot be lost sight of. Simply because a boy or girl has become major, that does not mean that the parents have no say in the

matter of their future and their career. The parents are entitled to protect their children. The parents are entitled to advise their children and mould their career. The right conferred under Article 25 of the Constitution does not enable a stranger to deny the rights of the parents of the girls. Article 25 is aimed at protecting individual freedom. It is not aimed at destroying the family set up and culture. In our country, there are laws for protecting the rights of parents. There are also laws compelling the parents to provide for even minor children, in certain circumstances. The laws in our country are aimed at protecting the rights of our citizens and protecting the culture and traditions of our citizens.

24. The fundamental right enshrined under Article 25 of the Constitution of India that "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion" is subject to "public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of Part III of the Constitution of India. Educational institutions, professional colleges and other institutions where the young people are engaged in their pursuit for learning and acquiring knowledge, are not certainly the breeding grounds for propagating religion. The framers of the Constitution would not have thought of converting educational institutions as the venue for propagating religion and for promoting religious conversion.

25. As rightly pointed out in the statement submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the act of practice of religion is concerned primarily with religious worship, ritual and observations. Propagation takes in the right to communicate beliefs to another person or to expand the tenets of one's religion . It does not include a right to forcible or compulsive conversion. Any use of force or allurements for propagation of religion is illegal and may cause law and order problems.

26. The statement submitted on behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is also relevant on another aspect. Some of the State Governments have enacted legislations to prohibit any person to convert or attempt to convert, either directly or otherwise, any person from one religious faith to any other religious faith by the use of force or by inducement or by any fraudulent means. In the scenario in the State of Kerala, it is for the people of the State, the Government and the legislators to consider whether any such law should be enacted for the State of Kerala. Let not our people fight against each other in the name of religion and faith. Let not our children be compelled to deviate from their path of pursuit of knowledge and learning. Let our children turn out to be the best citizens of our nation. Let them live freely in the joyous atmosphere of educational institutions. Let love be sublime, divine and free from any other consideration. If some of the students want to

B.A. NOS.5288 AND 5289 OF 2009

:: 30 ::

become religious scholars, let them do so, but not at the peril of other students.

27. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case and the nature and gravity of the offence alleged against the petitioners, I am not inclined to grant the discretionary relief under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in their favour. The petitioners are not entitled to the discretionary relief under Section 438 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

28. For the aforesaid reasons, the Bail Applications are dismissed.

The Registry will send a copy of this Order to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Government of Kerala.

(K.T.SANKARAN)
Judge

ahz/

CORRESPONDENCE



VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Patrons:

Justice. R. Balasubramaniam, former Judge, Madras High Court.

Shri V.R. Lakshminarayanan, IPS, former Director General of Police, Tamilnadu.

Dr. Avvai Natarajan, former Vice-Chancellor, Thamizh University, Tamilnadu.

January 4, 2010

To,
The Registrar General,
High Court of Kerala,
At Eranakulam,
Kerala State
PIN: 682 001

Regd Post.

Sir,

This is to inform you that Justice Surendra Bharghav, former Chief Justice of Sikkim, presently living in Jaipur is visiting Cochin as the Chairman of the Committee constituted by "Voice for Justice", a NGO to inquire into forced religious conversions that are taking place in Kerala.

He will be staying in a private accommodation at Hotel Gokulam Park, Kalloor, Cochin – 682 017.

Mr. Justice Surendra Bharghav will be travelling by Jet Airways 9W-2101 to Cochin and will reach Cochin at 12:20 noon on 09-01-2010 and will return by Jet Airways 9W-2102 at 13:00 on 13-01-2010.

This is for your information and to do the needful.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,
For Voice for Justice,

Ramkishan Garg
Member Secretary



January 4, 2010

To,
The Collector,
O/o The Collectorate of Ernakulam District
Ernakulam,
Kerala State
PIN: 682 001

VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Patrons:

Justice. R. Balasubramaniam, former Judge, Madras High Court.
Shri V.R. Lakshminarayana, IPS, former Director General of Police, Tamilnadu.
Dr. Avvai Natarajan, former Vice-Chancellor, Thamizh University, Tamilnadu.

By REGD POST

Sir,

Sub: Request for necessary security and facility to the Committee Members visiting
Ernakulam from 09-01-2010 to 13-01-2010.

“Voice for Justice” is a non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered as a Trust under the Indian Trusts Act.

“Voice for Justice” is an organization that strives to protect the human rights, and work for communal amity and peace in the Society. **“Voice for Justice”** is undertaking a study on the issue of forceful religious conversions in Kerala.

With this objective in mind **“Voice for Justice”** has formed a Committee comprising of the following eminent personalities:

1. Justice Surendra Bharghav, former Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court, Gangtok. He is presently living in Jaipur, Rajasthan. He is the Chairman of the Committee.
2. Shri. T. S. Rao, former Director General of Police, Government of Andhra Pradesh. He is presently living in Hyderabad.
3. Dr. Suvarna Rawal, an academican, and a social activist, working in a NGO committed to promoting the welfare of Nomadic Tribes in the State of Maharashtra. She is presently living in Bhiwandi, in the District of Thane, Maharashtra.
4. Shri. Gurcharan Singh Gill, former Additional Advocate General, Rajasthan. He is presently living in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
5. Dr. I.B. Vijayalakshmi, a leading Paediatric Cardiologist, a social activist and a columnist. She is presently living in Bangalore.
6. Shri. P. Ganapathi, a leading Industrialist. He is presently living in Chennai.



VOICE FOR JUSTICE

Patrons:

Justice. R. Balasubramaniam, former Judge, Madras High Court.
Shri V.R. Lakshminarayanan, IPS, former Director General of Police, Tamilnadu.
Dr. Avvai Natarajan, former Vice-Chancellor, Thamizh University, Tamilnadu.

7. Shri. Rammesh P Garg, a Corporate Advisor. He is presently living in Chennai. He is the Member – Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee will investigate whether there is any truth in the various media reports on forceful religious conversions and also examine whether any human rights have been infringed upon.

I, the undersigned, therefore request you to kindly provide the necessary security arrangements and other facilities, to enable the Committee to carry out its tasks from 9th January 2010 to 13th January 2010.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,
For Voice For Justice,

image object

Rammesh Garg
Member - Secretary

PRESS REPORTS

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Probe into Maharashtra's Muslim boy-Hindu girl marriages

3 Jul 2009, 0836 hrs IST, Sanjeev Shivadekar, TNN

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Text:

MUMBAI: Maharashtra's criminal investigation department (CID) meant to probe high-profile cases will now investigate love affairs that have resulted in marriages between Hindu girls and Muslim boys.

CID has been told to check whether Muslim boys are enticing Hindu girls as part of a 'conspiracy'. Minister of state for home (rural) Nitin Raut had announced this in the assembly on the last day of Maharashtra's budget session a fortnight back.

Participating in a calling attention notice, Eknath Khadse and Devendra Fadnavis had said young Muslim boys in rural areas were wooing Hindu college girls and then marrying them. According to them, this was part of a 'conspiracy' to increase the population of the community. Khadse even alleged that some Hindu girls had been sent to Gulf.

In his reply, Raut admitted such incidents were happening. "I will initiate an inquiry into this," the minister had promised. But the opposition demanded that he order a CID probe as the issue was serious. Subsequently, Raut gave in to their demands.

CID chief SPS Yadav said, "We have yet to receive the order. The first thing we will have to do is to check whether such an inquiry is in consonance with the CID manual. If not, we will inform the government about the norms," he said. "If government persists, we will decide on how to carry out these investigations."

Raut's announcement has not gone down well with his cabinet colleagues and leaders of the Muslim community. Senior NCP leader and labour minister Nawab Malik said BJP has political interest in raising such issues.

Congress leader and minister of state for home (urban) Arif Naseem Khan said there is no provision in law where member of a particular community can be stopped from marrying a girl\boy of another community. "If any case where a girl\boy is pressurised into getting married to member of other community, the offender should be certainly punished," he added.

Refuting the allegations made by Malik and Khan, Fadnavis said, "Had we wanted to politicise the issue, we would have carried out morcha and protest, instead we demanded CID inquiry that shows that our intention was not to gain political mileage of the issue."

