

SSCR 20/18

S.M. No. 30/2018

Additional District & Sessions Court - VI
Kollam, Dated 22/10/2018.

From

M. Manoj,
Special Commissioner,
Sabarimala.
(Addl. District & Sessions Judge - VI Kollam)

To

The Registrar (Judicial)
Hon'ble High Court of Kerala,
Ernakulam.

Sir,

Sub: Sabarimala - Report submitting of- regarding:

I am submitting herewith a report regarding protests in connection with the entry of female devotees between the age of 10 to 50 in the Sabarimala Sree Dharmasastha Temple.

Yours faithfully



M.MANOJ
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, SABARIMALA

BEFORE THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF KERALA
FINAL REPORT (S.M.NO.30/2018) RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY
M. MANOJ, SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, SABARIMALA
(ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE-VI, KOLLAM)

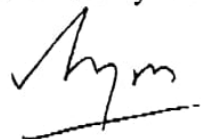
SWAMI SARANAM

1. The Honbl'e Supreme court has declared in the judgement dated 28/09/2018 in Indian Young Lawyers Association . V. The state Of Kerala and others (W.P. (civil) 373/2006 that the restriction imposed on female devotees between the Age of 10 to 50 entering the Sabarimala Sree Dharmashastha Temple at Sannidhanam is unconstitutional and allowed the Writ petition, Which implies that the Kerala State Govt, The Travancore Devaswom Board, The Chief Thantri And the District Magistrate Pathanamthitta are directed to ensure entry of female devotees between the age of 10 to 50 in the said Temple.(Prayer in the Writ petition culled out from para 5 of the Judgement).
2. Several organisations of Ayyappa devotees and political parties made wide spread protests in the form of prayer chanting processions against the permission granted to female devotees of the age group 10 to 50 years to enter the Sabarimala Temple at Sannidhanam. The protestors set up tents in Nilakkal and gathrerred there in large numbers and began checking vehicles and as the situation grew tense with the oncoming opening of the Temple on the evening of 17/10 /2018 for the Thulamasapooja the District



Collector imposed prohibitory orders U/S 144 Cr.Pc. around a radius of 30 kms from the Sabarimala Temple.

3. To ensure Law and Order The ADGP South Zone and Range IG Thiruvananthapuram Camped at Nilakkal. In the evening of 17/10/2018 the law and order situation deteriorated at Nilakkal, a section of the crowd blocked female journalists, damaged their vehicles ,resorted to stone pelting damaging K.S.R.T.C.Busses and Police Vehicles and the police had to use force to disperse the crowd. The police have registered Pampa Police Station Crime Nos 255/18, 256/18, 257/18, 260/18, 261/18,262/18 with regard to the violent incidents at Nilakkal on 17/10/18. There were Prayer Chanting protests in Pampa Ganapathy Temple premises on that day and the police registered crime nos 258/18 and 259/18 of Pampa Police station while removing the protesters from Pampa on 17/10/18. In the meanwhile on the same day Madhavi, a woman aged below 50 from Andhra Pradesh had to turn back to Pampa from the trek Path as she was heckled by the protestors.
4. On 18/10/18 by about 7.30 am a newyork Times reporter Suhasini Raj undertook the trek to sabarimala with police aid but she had to turn back from Appachimedu as devotees and protesters heckled her .
5. On 19/10/18 by early morning Two women below 50 years ,Kavitha a reporter from Andhra Pradesh and Rehana Fathima who claimed to be a devotee seems to have requested aid from the police to trek to Sannidhanam and they were led by a detachment



of police personnel lead by Inspector General of Police S.Sreejith along the trek path. Both the women wore police helmets and Kavitha wore a flak jacket all along the trekking. Spontaneous protest erupted at Sannidhanam on seeing the women trekking along the path being aired live by television news channels. At about 8.40 am when they reached near K.S.E.B .I.B at Sannidhanam a crowd of about 250 who mostly comprised of Ayyappa devotees including children Spontaneously gathered, started chanting Saranam and obstructed the pathway. The crowd chanted Saranam with high religious fervour and was in a religious frenzy. The police party and the women could not proceed further as it was realised that proceeding further would require using force on the devotees and it could lead to a major law and order situation. In the meanwhile tensions rose in Sannidhanam and the Parikarmis of the Thanthri and Melshanthi started Chanting Saranam below the holy 18 steps in the lower Thirumuttam. Due to the tense situation the Thanthri Shri Kandar Rajeevaru made a declaration that if the customs and rituals of the temple are violated he would have no other option to close the temple. After some time the police party led the women back to Pampa. The Sannidhanam Police registered crime 13/2018 in connection with this incident. On the same day itself a woman Annie Sweetie came without Erumudikettu to trek to Sannidhanam and due to protests by devotees in the trek path she had to return.

6. On 20/10/2018 another woman by name Manju from Chathanoor claiming to be a devotee also had to cancel her trek to

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Sabarimala due to incessant rains and on police verification that there were criminal cases pending against her.

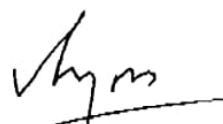
7. The devotees have turned like vigilantes and on suspecting the age of women they began to protest spontaneously. On 20/10/18 a lady devotee well over 50 years was challenged by a group of devotees at the Nadapanthal at Snnidhanam , the police had to intervene and since it was convinced that she was above 50 years she could ascend the holy 18 steps and have dsarshan. The same vigilantism by devotees and protestors occurred on 21/10/18 at Nadapanthal and the trek path and four women were stopped from trekking to Sannidhanam.

8. There are unconfirmed informations that some protestors of political parties are camping in and around Sannidhanam to protest and prevent women between 10 and 50 coming to Sannidhanam. The police have so far registered more than 16 criminal cases against the protestors. It is anticipated that protests by protestors and Vigilantism by devotees acting with religious frenzy to prevent Women between the age group 10 to 50 will be prevalent during the Mandalam makaravilakku festival season commencing on 16/11/2018 and it may lead to chaos in Sabarimala, Pampa Nilakkal, Erumeli etc. During festival season there will be large crowds in places connected with Sabarimala Pilgrimage and these type of protests by frenzied devotees and protestors may lead to crowd turbulence and stampede which may lead to injuries and loss of life to pilgrims , police and others.



9. These facts are submitted for kind information

Praying for directions in this regard.



M.MANOJ
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER, SABARIMALA