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\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 12862/2023

RITWICK DUTTA

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Trideep Pais, Sr. Advocate with  
Mr. Abhishek and Ms. A. Reyna  
Shruti, Advocates.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Anurag Ahluwalia, CGSC with  
Mr. Abhigyan Siddhant, GP.  
Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, SPP with  
Mr. Kushagra Kumar and Mr.  
Abhinav Bhardwaj, Advocates for  
CBI.

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD**

**ORDER**

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**10.11.2023**

**CM APPL. 58967/2023**

1. This application has been filed by the Petitioner seeking permission to travel to Geneva, Switzerland from 23.11.2023 to 25.11.2023 and to Germany from 03.12.2023 to 08.12.2023.
2. It is stated that the Petitioner is an Advocate by profession and is the founder of M/s Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE).
3. This application has been filed by the Petitioner stating that he is a Fellow at the University of Bonn, Germany and has to attend the Right to Livelihood Workshop from 04.12.2023 to 07.12.2023. It is also stated that the Petitioner has been given an opportunity to participate in the one-day seminar conducted by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human

Rights and Environment. It is further stated that the Petitioner is invited as a Guest Speaker in the University of California (Santa Cruz, USA), Universidad Austral (Chile), Universidad Nacional de Cordoba (Argentina), School of Well Being Study (Thailand), University of Zurich, (Switzerland), University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), and the University of Bonn, Germany.

4. It is stated that a Look Out Circular has been issued against the Petitioner at the instance of the CBI.

5. It is stated that the company of the Petitioner violated various provisions of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and, therefore, an FIR being FIR No.RC2202023E0013, dated 19.04.2023 was registered against the Petitioner under Sections 35 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

6. Admittedly, the Petitioner is an Advocate registered with the Bar Council of Delhi and has been practicing law in Delhi for the last 21 years primarily in the field of environmental law. It is stated that the Petitioner is also a recipient of Right Livelihood Award, 2021. It is stated that the Petitioner has roots in the society.

7. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is inclined to grant permission to the Petitioner to travel to Geneva, Switzerland from 23.11.2023 to 25.11.2023 and to Germany from 03.12.2023 to 08.12.2023:-

i) The Petitioner shall file an undertaking before the learned Registrar giving the details of the immovable property that, i.e N-73, LGF, GK-I, New Delhi - 110048 and shall undertake that he shall not dispose of the same during the pendency of the petition.

ii) The Petitioner shall furnish a security of Rs. 5 lakhs to

the satisfaction of the learned Registrar General, Delhi High Court. The said security in the form of an FDR shall remain valid till further orders of this Court.

iii) The Petitioner shall file the complete itinerary along with the flight details with the learned Registrar General, Delhi High Court.

iv) The Petitioner shall furnish a detailed affidavit disclosing detailed itinerary, including her stay at various stations abroad, telephone numbers and residential/hotel addresses. The Petitioner shall also file an undertaking that he shall adhere to the itinerary mentioned in the affidavit and not visit any other stations.

v) The Petitioner shall intimate the Court and Respondent No.1/Union of India before leaving and within 72 hours of his return from abroad.

vi) The Petitioner shall file a self- attested copy of her passport along with a copy of his visa in the Court on his return to India.

vii) The permission to travel abroad given in this order shall be subject to other applicable conditions, and will not be deemed as a direction to any other authority.

8. The application is disposed of.

9. List the before the learned Registrar General on 17.11.2023.

**SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023**

*Rahul*