



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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Date of Decision: 08.10.2025

(1) CROCP-12-2014 (O&M)

Court on its own motion

...Petitioners

Versus

Rampal and others

...Respondents

(2) CRM-M-41389-2014 (O&M)

Court on its own motion

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and others

...Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS SURI**

Present: Mr. Anupam Gupta, Senior Advocate (*Amicus Curiae*) with
Mr. Gautam Pathania, Advocate and
Mr. Sukhpal Singh, Advocate.

Mr. T.P.S.Chawla, Senior Deputy Advocate General, Punjab.

Mr. P.P.Chahar, Senior Deputy Advocate General, Haryana.

Mr. Prateek Rathee, Additional Public Prosecutor, U.T. Chd.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India with
Ms. Promila Nain, Advocate
for respondent-Union of India.

Mr. Vinod Ghai, Senior Advocate with

Mr. Arjun Sheoran, Advocate

Mr. Tejasvi Sheokand, Advocate

Ms. Pranhita Singh, Advocate

Mr. Chand Rathi, Advocate

Mr. Sachin, Advocate

Mr. Nitin Gupta, Advocate

Mr. Arnav Ghai, Advocate

for respondents.



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Harsimran Singh Sethi, J. (Oral)

1. The present criminal contempt proceedings were initiated by the Court on its own motion keeping in view certain facts, which had come to the knowledge of this Court. The said proceedings are pending for the last 11 years. On the last date of hearing, the following order was passed:-

“Mr. Arjun Sheoran, Advocate has put in appearance on behalf of all the private respondents and filed his vakalatnama.

Learned Senior Counsel appearing on behalf of the contemnors submits that the contemnors are ready to concede the charge and thereafter, plead forgiveness keeping in view the certain facts especially that there is a repentance of the alleged incident with the clear undertaking that the same will not happen in future under any circumstances and that the majesty of the Court and its orders will be treated in a manner as required by a citizen of this country.

Adjourned to 08.10.2025 for further consideration.

A photocopy of this order be placed on the file of other connected case.”

2. In pursuance to the said order, the affidavit of Mr. Rampal, the Contemnor has been filed in Court today and the same is taken on record, which is being reproduced hereunder:-

AFFIDAVIT OF RAMPAL, AGED ABOUT 75 YEARS, SON OF SH.NAND RAM, RESIDENT OF VILLAGE DHANANA, TEHSIL GOHANA, DISTRICT SONEPAT, PRESENTLY CONFINED IN CENTRAL JAIL-II, HISAR, IN PURSUANCE OF ORDER DATED 29.09.2025

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:



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1. That this affidavit is being filed in pursuance of the proceedings dated 29th September 2025 and in continuation of my earlier affidavit dated 25th September 2025, wherein I tendered an unconditional, heartfelt, bona fide and sincere apology with folded hands, along with an undertaking never to commit any act which could be construed as contemptuous.

2. That I deeply regret the incidents which form the subject matter of the present contempt petition. I reiterate my utmost respect for this Hon'ble Court, the majesty of law, and the judicial system as a whole.

3. That I most humbly submit that at no point was it my intention to act in a manner that could be seen as disrespectful or contemptuous. I am truly remorseful for the unfortunate circumstances and again tender my unconditional apology.

4. That I sincerely express my genuine contrition and remorse for the events which led to these proceedings and pray, with folded hands, for the forgiveness and indulgence of this Hon'ble Court.

5. That in terms of the proceedings before this Hon'ble Court on 29th September 2025, I submit myself to the mercy and magnanimity of this esteemed institution and am willing to face any penalty or punishment that this Hon'ble Court may deem just and proper.

6. That I humbly pray for leniency and mercy, considering that I am about 75 years of age and have remained in custody since November 2014, i.e. for about 11 years. This long period of incarceration has given me ample opportunity to introspect and reform. My conduct during these 11 years in prison has been good, which itself reflects my sincere effort at correction and reform. I have accordingly tendered both my earlier and present affidavits with utmost sincerity in seeking forgiveness.

7. That I further submit that being a preacher of Satlok



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Ashram, even during my incarceration, the Ashram in my absence has continued to make positive contributions to society. These include:

- (i) construction of about 100 houses for families living below the poverty line in Haryana and other states;*
- (ii) distribution of ration to nearly 5000 families every month across Haryana and other states;*
- (iii) during the Covid-19 outbreak, ration worth about ₹10 crores was distributed to needy families;*
- (iv) solemnisation of around 1000 marriages of poor couples for free, every year;*
- (v) organisation of 5-7 blood donation camps annually, where thousands of units of blood are donated by the followers of the Ashram; and*
- (vi) help during natural calamities such as during the in the recent floods of July-August 2025 in Haryana where distribution of pipes, motors, starters and cables in about 50 flood-hit villages was done.*

I intend to ensure the continuance of these efforts in the future as well.

8. That I also respectfully concede to the unfortunate and avoidable nature of the incidents which are the subject matter of the present contempt petition. I also most humbly submit that those events were beyond my control. I nevertheless take full responsibility for their consequences, sincerely seek the forgiveness of this Hon'ble Court, and solemnly undertake that no such incident shall ever occur in future.

9. That I most respectfully pray that a quietus be given to the present proceedings, while assuring this Hon'ble Court that I bow in humility and shall faithfully abide by any decision that this



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Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.

10. That in view of the above, I am ready to concede the charge and, plead forgiveness keeping in view my long custody and good conduct since November 2014, and especially that there is a genuine repentance of the alleged incident(s). I unequivocally undertake that the same will not happen in future under any circumstances and that the majesty of the Rule of Law, the Hon'ble High Court, Ld. Trial Courts, and their orders and proceedings, will be treated with utmost respect and complied with forthwith in a manner as required by a citizen of this country, in accordance with law.

PLACE: HISAR

DATED: 03.10.2025

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified that the contents of this affidavit from para No. 1 to 10 of are true and correct to my knowledge. No part of it is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therefrom.

PLACE: HISAR

DATED: 03.10.2025

DEPONENT

3. Similar affidavit has been filed by Ram Kumar Dhaka, the second Contemnor, and the same is also taken on record, which is as under:-

*AFFIDAVIT OF **RAM KUMAR DHAKA** SON OF SISRAM, AGED ABOUT 82 YEARS, RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO.65/31, NEAR DOUBLE PHATAK, AZAD NAGAR, ROHTAK, DISTRICT ROHTAK (HARYANA) IN TERMS OF ORDER DATED 29.09.2025.*

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:



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1. That this affidavit is being filed in pursuance of the proceedings dated 29th September 2025 and in continuation of my earlier affidavit dated 23rd September 2025, wherein I tendered an unconditional, heartfelt, bona fide and sincere apology with folded hands, along with an undertaking never to commit any act which could be construed as contemptuous.

2. That I deeply regret the incidents which form the subject matter of the present contempt petition. I reiterate my utmost respect for this Hon'ble Court, the majesty of law, and the judicial system as a whole.

3. That I most humbly submit that at no point was it my intention to act in a manner that could be seen as disrespectful or contemptuous. I am truly remorseful for the unfortunate circumstances and again tender my unconditional apology.

4. That I sincerely express my genuine contrition and remorse for the events which led to these proceedings and pray, with folded hands, for the forgiveness and indulgence of this Hon'ble Court.

5. That in terms of the proceedings before this Hon'ble Court on 29th September 2025, I submit myself to the mercy and magnanimity of this esteemed institution and am willing to face any penalty or punishment that this Hon'ble Court may deem just and proper.

6. That I humbly pray for leniency and mercy, considering that I am about 82 years of age and have suffered incarceration and thereafter pending legal proceedings. This period has given me ample opportunity to introspect and reform. I have accordingly tendered both my earlier and present affidavits with utmost sincerity in seeking forgiveness.

7. That I also respectfully concede to the unfortunate and avoidable nature of the incidents which are the subject matter of the present contempt petition. I also most humbly submit that



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those events were beyond my control. I nevertheless take full responsibility for their consequences, sincerely seek the forgiveness of this Hon'ble Court, and solemnly undertake that no such incident shall ever occur in future.

8. *That I most respectfully pray that a quietus be given to the present proceedings, while assuring this Hon'ble Court that I bow in humility and shall faithfully abide by any decision that this Court deems fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.*

9. *That in view of the above, I am ready to concede the charge and, plead forgiveness keeping in view my age, and good conduct since November 2014, and especially that there is a genuine repentance of the alleged incident(s). I unequivocally undertake that the same will not happen in future under any circumstances and that the majesty of the Rule of Law, the Hon'ble High Court, Ld. Trial Courts, and their orders and proceedings, will be treated with utmost respect and complied with forthwith in a manner as required by a citizen of this country, in accordance with law.*

PLACE: Chandigarh
DATED: 07.10.2025

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 9 of are true and correct to my knowledge. No part of this affidavit is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therefrom.

PLACE: Chandigarh
DATED: 07.10.2025

DEPONENT”

4. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the contemnors submits that keeping in view the affidavits filed, the charges alleged against the contemnors have been conceded by them and the contemnors are repenting for



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their ill acts and seek forgiveness of this Court.

5. The contemnors are 75 years and 82 years of age respectively and contemnor-Rampal is behind bars for the last 11 years. The undertaking given in the affidavits shows that they have introspected in the last 11 years that has apparently led them to being reformed and they have given the details qua their repentance. It is well recognized that the reformatory principle of punishment asserts that the primary goal of the justice system should be to rehabilitate the offender and transform them into law-abiding members of society, rather than simply inflicting punishment. The said principle stems from the belief that all individuals are capable of change and that 'the wrong doer' should not be condemned, but rather guided towards a better path. Therefore, instead of just isolating offenders from society, the reformatory theory seeks to integrate them back into as changed individuals, thereby serving the dual goals of justice and societal well being.

6. Keeping in view the aforesaid and totality of the circumstances, the present petitions are disposed of with warning to both the contemnors to remain careful in future.

7. Further, it is recorded that any incident henceforth, alleged against the contemnors in relation to any act, speech, allegation qua Court of law, whether this Court or even the Subordinate Courts, a strict view will be taken including the re-opening of the present proceedings to be taken to the logical end.

8. At this stage, the learned *Amicus Curiae* submits that certain financial/property loss has been caused to the State qua which also, the



*CROCP-12-20124 (O&M) and
CRM-M-41389-2014 (O&M)*

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appropriate order be passed.

9. It has been brought to the notice of this Court that on the said issue, a Full Bench has already been constituted and considering the same. In case, after the order passed by the Full Bench, any proceedings are to be initiated against the alleged contemnors, appropriate procedure will be adopted by the State of Haryana and by considering the reply/objections to the said proposal, the State will be free to pass appropriate order. In case, the contemnors are aggrieved by any order passed, they can avail appropriate remedy available to them, in accordance with law.

10. Keeping in view of the above, the present proceedings are disposed of with the above observations.

11. Before parting, the assistance provided to this Court by Mr. Anupam Gupta, learned Senior Advocate being *Amicus Curiae*, along with his team, is highly appreciated.

12. Photocopy of this order be placed on the file of other connected case.

(HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI)
JUDGE

(VIKAS SURI)
JUDGE

October 08, 2025

Varinder

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes

Whether reportable : No