

Misab Umair vs ICICI Bank Represented by Bank Manager

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Court : Kerala

Decided On : Apr-10-2025

Judge : Honourable Mr.Justice C.S.Dias

Appeal No. : WP(C)/10783/2025

Appellant : Misab Umair

Respondent : ICICI Bank Represented by Bank Manager

Judgement :

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.S.DIAS THURSDAY, THE 10TH DAY OF APRIL 2025 / 20TH CHAITHRA, 1947 WP(C) NO. 10783 OF 2025 PETITIONER: MISAB UMAIR AGED 25 YEARS SON OF ABDUL NASAR, PARANKICHALIL, ELETTIL P.O, KIZHAKKOTH, KOZHIKODE, KERALA, PIN - 673572 BY ADVS. V.S.MANSOOR AKHIL BINOY AHAMMED MIZWAR V.P. RESPONDENTS: 1 ICICI BANK REPRESENTED BY BANK MANAGER CHALAKUDY BRANCH, THANALIL CENTRE, RAILWAY STATION ROAD, NEAR BLOCK PANCHAYATH OFFICE, CHALAKKUDY, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680307 2 INSPECTOR OF POLICE, CYBER CRIME POLICE STATION DPO, VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU [EMAIL:-

SHOCCPSVPM.DGP@TN.GOV.IN], PIN - 605602 BY ADVS. LAL K JOSEPH P.MURALEEDHARAN (THURAVOOR)(K/1651/2000) T.A.LUXY(K/000701/1997) SURESH SUKUMAR(K/634/1997) ANZIL SALIM(K/000447/2018) SANJAY SELLEN(K/885/2021) THIS WRIT PETITION (CIVIL) HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 10.04.2025, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING: WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 2

JUDGMENT

Dated this the 10th day of April, 2025 The writ petition is filed to direct the first respondent bank to lift the debit freezing of the petitioners bank account bearing No. 000401937058.

2. The petitioner is the holder of the above

bank account with the first respondent bank. The petitioners bank account has been debit frozen by the first respondent pursuant to the requisition received from the second respondent. The action of the first respondent is illegal and arbitrary. Hence, this writ petition.

3. Heard; the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned counsel for the first respondent.

4. The learned counsel for the first respondent submitted that, the total disputed amount is Rs. 4,400/-. The said submission is recorded. WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 3

5. In considering an identical matter, this Court in Dr.Sajeer v. Reserve Bank of India [2024

(1) KLT 826] held as follows:

a. The respondent Banks arrayed in these cases, are directed to confine the order of freeze against the accounts of the respective petitioners, only to the extent of the amounts mentioned in the order/requisition

issued to them by the Police Authorities. This shall be done forthwith, so as to enable the petitioners to deal with their accounts, and transact therein, beyond that limit. b. The respondent - Police Authorities concerned are hereby directed to inform the respective Banks as to whether freezing of accounts of the petitioners in these Writ Petitions will require to be continued even in the afore manner; and if so, for what further time, within a period of eight months from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment. c. On the Banks receiving the afore information/intimation from the Police Authorities, they will adhere with it and complete necessary action - either continuing the freeze for such period as mentioned therein; or withdrawing it, as the case may be. d. If, however, no information or intimation is received by their Banks in terms of directions (b) above, the petitioners or such among them, will be at full liberty to approach this Court again; for which purpose, all their contentions in these Writ Petitions are left open and reserved to them, to impel in future.

6. Subsequently, this Court in Nazeer K.T

v. Manager, Federal Bank Ltd [2024 KHC OnLine 768], after concurring with the view in Dr.Sajeer's case (supra) and taking into consideration Section 102 WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (now Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023] and the interpretation of Section 102 of the Code laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in State of Maharashtra v. Tapas D Neogy [(1999) 7 SCC 685], Teesta Atul Setalvad v. State of Gujarat [(2018) 2 SCC 372] and Shento Varghese v. Julfikar Husen and others [2024 SCC OnLine SC 895], has held thus:

8. The above discussion leads to the conclusion that, while delay in forthwith reporting the seizure to the Magistrate may only be an irregularity, total failure to report the seizure will definitely have a negative impact on the validity of the seizure. In such circumstances, account holders like the petitioner, most of whom are not even made accused in the crimes registered, cannot be made to wait indefinitely

hoping that the police may act in tune with S.102 and report the seizure as mandated under Sub-section (3) at some point of time. In that view of the matter, the following direction is issued, in addition to the directions in Dr.Sajeer (supra).

(i) The Police officer concerned shall inform the banks

whether the seizure of the bank account has been reported to the jurisdictional Magistrate and if not, the time limit within which the seizure will be reported. If no intimation as to the compliance or the proposal to comply with the S.102 is informed to bank within one month of receipt of a copy of the judgment, the bank shall lift the debit freeze imposed on the petitioner's account.

(ii) In order to enable the police to comply with the above direction, the bank as well as the petitioner shall forthwith serve a copy of this judgment to the officer concerned and retain proof of such service. WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 5

7. I am in complete agreement with the views in

Dr.Sajeer and Nazeer K.T cases (supra). The above principles squarely apply to the facts of the case on hand. In the above conspectus, I dispose of the writ petition by passing the following directions:

(i). The first respondent Bank is directed to confine the freezing order of the petitioner's bank account only to the extent of the amount mentioned in the order/requisition issued by the Police Authorities. The above exercise shall be done forthwith, so as to enable the petitioner to transact through his account beyond the said limit;

(ii). The Police Authorities are hereby directed to inform the Bank as to whether freezing of the petitioner's account will be required to be continued even in the afore manner; and if so, for what further time; (iii). On the Bank receiving the afore information/intimation from the Police Authorities, they will adhere with it and complete necessary action - either continuing the freeze for such period as

mentioned therein; or withdrawing it, as the case may be; (iv). If, however, no information or intimation is received by the Bank in terms of direction (ii) above, the petitioner will be at full liberty to approach this Court again; for which purpose, all WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 6 his contentions in this Writ Petition are left open and reserved to him, to impel in future;

(v). The jurisdictional police officers shall inform the Bank whether the seizure of the bank account has been reported to the jurisdictional Magistrate and if not, the time limit within which the seizure will be reported. If no intimation as to the compliance or the proposal to comply with Section 102 of the Cr.P.C. is received by the Bank within two months of receipt of a copy of this judgment, the Bank shall lift the debit freeze or remove the lien, as the case may be, on the petitioner's bank account;

(vi) In order to enable the Police to comply with the above direction, the Bank, as well as the petitioner, shall forthwith serve a copy of this

judgment to the jurisdictional officer and retain

proof of such service. The writ petition is ordered accordingly. Sd/- C.S.DIAS, JUDGE mtk/10.04.25 WP(C) NO.10783 of 2025 7 APPENDIX OF WP(C) 10783/2025 PETITIONER EXHIBITS EXHIBIT P1 A TRUE PHOTO COPY OF THE FIRST PAGE OF THE ACCOUNT STATEMENT ISSUED BY 1ST RESPONDENT TO THE PETITIONER EXHIBIT P2 A COMPUTER COPY OF INTIMATION DTD:- THE 1ST RESPONDENT REGARDING THE DEBIT FREEZE OF ACCOUNT OF PETITIONER

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