

From the Editor's Desk



Sincerity is the single virtue that binds divinity and man in one – **Jingshoju**

Sincerity is a soul quality that God has given to every human-being, but not all express it
– **Paramhansa Yogananda**

Support Campaign for Action on ECOWAS Court Judgments: The usefulness of International Courts such as the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice (ECCJ) does not lie in their mere creation and existence BUT they are useful and influential in promoting human rights, peace and justice only when they adjudicate cases and their decisions are enforced or fully complied with by state parties. The ECCJ has been recognised as an important arm of the ECOWAS that is capable of promoting justice and human rights and by extension peace and security in the West Africa region. Unfortunately, however, the Court's influence, significance, and contributions to peace and security in the region has been significantly undermined by the continuous disregard of the Court's decisions (particularly those on human rights offences) among the same governments who set up the Court. So far, over a dozen judgments of the Court (including over a dozen human rights-related ones) have been disregarded by various Member States. While the situation undermines calls for African crimes to be tried in Africa by Africans, it also works against the realization of ECOWAS' vision of having an ECOWAS of the people rather of states. Also, as the ECOWAS continues to pursue peace and stability in the region, it must be emphasised that, as highlighted in the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, there cannot be peace and stability in the region without an assurance of justice for community citizens whose rights are violated. Also, at a time when there is a serious advocacy for African crimes to be tried in Africa by Africans, there can't be a better time to strengthen the ECCJ. The above reasons among many others underscore an ongoing campaign by the Media Foundation for West

- *The need for such integrated approach in all disciplines of human activities to ensure fair and just practices throughout the world as a unified practice wherever feasible with transparency, accountability and responsibility with attitudes to suit.*
- *Let's match up for the international benchmark, to all that we do to raise the human race to new heights of human achievement.*
- *Man does not indeed live by bread alone. He thirsts for righteousness and justice in his life-time -and a bad judicial system-makes him dissatisfied with democracy itself. It is a dangerous social situation, for any citizen, of any nation as we rely upon the Judiciary ultimately to live with peace, happiness and prosperity.*
- *We, in INDIA need to follow "a common approach in administration of justice, Unfortunately the need for a common approach to the administration of justice in INDIA, has not been properly understood - not just among those that we serve or even ourselves, but also by those who make decisions on policy and resources". "Lack of understanding and attitude of those to take discretion for the Administration of Justice that matters. As RA16/2013 in O.A7/2013, with the ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, Chennai Regional Bench.*
- *TRUTH AND REALITY, HAS LOST IT'S VALUE NOWADAYS*
- *There are black-sheep in all fields of discipline. Media as a whole are Social and Rights Activists who looks to finding ways and means to finding solutions to public issues.*
- *Right of expression and to be heard, unbiased. " Freedom of expression to be respected, considering the substance of the content, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, community, literate, illiterate level of class, poor or rich etc. Needs to be heard, for moving forward, as inter-actions prove credible, in practical life".*
- *Social Protection in the AIR, more particularly for Ex-Serviceman who once came forward young, to serve the nation from external threats with risks and sacrifices. Illogical move for the learned Honorable Bench Members of AFT Chennai Region to dismiss the case, neglect the reply to counters, against natural*

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justice, the freedom of expression and to be heard? submitted in OA7 and as well as RA16/2013.

- "FEAR "is not the natural state of civilized people. *The "Brave dies once".
 - o Any injustice committed against anyone is a threat to anyone. – **Montesquieu**
 - o Human Rights are every human-beings entitlement, by virtue of his humanity. – **Mother Theresa**
 - o Give to every human-being, every right that you claim for yourself. – **Robert Ingersoll**
 - o No man is above the law and no man below it. – **Theodore Roosevelt**
 - o A 'Right' is not what someone gives to you, it's what no one can take from you. – **Ramsey Clark**
- *Grave Injustices caused to "Service and Ex-Service Personnel" should not be tolerated despite the Armed Forces Tribunal, having come into existence, in 2009, to serve the XServicemen of India. Lacks employability of duty conscious service-minded personnel. Serving to whom they want with discrimination against equity and justice, is a violation to that enshrined in the Indian Constitution. High time, peoples government come to their rescue. Parliament churns-out numerous laws, covering various aspect of human activity over the years. It is most unfortunate that very few amongst the practicing advocates in A.F.T. are aware of them, while they are expected to know and keep themselves abreast with updates to serve the ex-servicemen, so that to accomplish the ex-serviceman's individual rights, by putting forth the relevant Acts and assist them. Hence, all Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen released from service are not aware of these Acts, unless they had served in the clerical cadres of the armed forces. Even then they have to keep abreast with the time to time revised Acts. With the result, advocates exploit the ESM by bargaining/negotiating with a big margin of the ex-servicemen's dues, entitlement and that of the arrears, taking a big unfair share of the ex-servicemen' dues. All this leads to corruption, thereby bribing within from those calling at Armed Forces Tribunal (A.F.T.).*
- *I am paused to think, if one omits an act or does a wrong act, it constitutes as an offence. It is no defence that one was not aware of the Law. Was it not expected for the learned, honourable Bench to primarily ensure that the existing laws are utilised optimistically to favour those ex-servicemen, who call at the Armed Forces Tribunal (A.F.T.), for redressing their grievances? This will boost up the morale of the ex-servicemen and as well as those in service. I would rather suggest and recommend a unison approach to ex-servicemen's welfare, irrespective of any of the Regional Benches or Principal Bench of the ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL This would ensure uniformity in their rights, benefits and privileges availed without disparity nor discrimination caused. Thereby, I am of the view that practicing advocates would be able to formulate similar standard contents for drafting their application/petition for a given need but for some added specific points that to be raised with an improved approach. Which is in consideration, similar to standard forms/norms as applicable. All this, is as simple with proper application of the minds.*
- *The learned honourable Bench and the learned advocates of the Tribunal, should primarily realise that the ' Tribunal ', has come into existence, to help and ease the problems of the service and ex-service personnel's, so that they get their due share unlike other Civil and Criminal Courts, where the variables are much more, than what is actually stipulated in the Acts. NGO's, ESM's Unions/Associations has a tremendous responsibility to reach-out their welfare measures, so that no section of the ESM cries for deprivation / discrimination caused.*

There are several laws, which are professedly enacted for the benefit of the common person. Unfortunately a vast majority of them are not aware of their rights, about the mechanisms and procedures for availing of the remedies provided, and also about their duties and responsibilities. The little persons who know are rebuked being a minority. Hence the mighty and the influenced rules with their contacts. All this speaks of the very poor Corporate Social Responsibility in this country.

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