

ITEM NO.804

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

I.A. No.....In Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).1112/2025

SHAHEEN MALIK

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

Date : 09-10-2026 This I.A. was mentioned today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE V. MOHANA

For Applicant(s) Ms. Kriti Mazumdar, AOR
 Mr. Ankush Kapoor, Adv.
 Mr. Zainab Khan, Adv.
 Mr. Arnav Abhishek, Adv.
 Ms. Huda Naaz, Adv.
 Mr. Daksh Kayastha, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

1. An application has been handed over in the Court today on behalf of an acid attack victim, through Shaheen Malik, Director of the Brave Souls Foundation, an organisation dedicated to the rehabilitation, welfare and securing of justice for acid attack survivors.

2. It was brought to our notice that the victim was allegedly attacked on 06.10.2026 at about 6:30 AM at Gondha Chowk, Bhajanpura, Delhi, in respect of which FIR No. 424/2026 was registered at Police Station Bhajanpura on the same day. In her statement recorded in the FIR, the victim named Tajjudin @ Sikander as the assailant, who is alleged to have fled the spot after the attack. Members of the public came to her aid and a call was made

to the emergency helpline number 112, whereafter she was taken by PCR to JPC Hospital and referred from there to GTB Hospital for further treatment.

3. It is further averred that on 08.10.2026 the victim sought discharge from GTB Hospital and left for Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in a private ambulance at about 3:45 PM, reaching it by about 4:45 PM. She was allegedly refused admission and made to wait in the ambulance until about 6:45 PM, without any medical treatment or even a stretcher, and the hospital staff then directed that the ambulance be removed from the waiting area as other patients were arriving. She was allowed into the emergency ward at about 6:45 PM only upon the intervention of counsel.

4. Even thereafter, she and her mother were repeatedly told that she would be discharged with a referral to Safdarjung Hospital, and nothing beyond first-aid dressings was administered. On 09.10.2026, the family was asked to seek her discharge on the ground that the hospital has no dedicated burn unit. An attempt to approach Apollo Hospital met with a similar response, the hospital having informed the petitioner telephonically that it has no dedicated burn injury ward and cannot admit the victim.

5. On this basis, it is submitted that the victim has received no effective treatment since 08.10.2026 and is in urgent need of medical intervention at a hospital equipped to manage acid attack and burn injuries, since any further delay carries a serious risk of deterioration in her condition. Reliance is placed on Section 397 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which requires every hospital, whether public or private and whether run by the Central Government, a State Government, a local body or any other person, to provide first-aid medical treatment free of cost to victims of offences covered under Section 124 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. It is urged that this obligation assumes paramount importance in the present case, and that the victim

cannot be left without care merely because a particular hospital lacks a specialised burn unit.

6. In light of the above alarming facts, the following prayers have been made in the application:

"a. Direct the Respondents to forthwith ensure the immediate admission and provision of comprehensive medical treatment to the acid attack victim, [xxx], at a suitably equipped hospital having the requisite burn unit and specialised facilities, without any further delay or impediment;

b. Direct the Respondents to ensure that the victim receives all necessary medical treatment, including emergency care, specialised burn management, surgical intervention, medication and other requisite medical facilities, free of cost, in accordance with the applicable provisions of law;

c. Direct the Respondents to ensure that no hospital, whether public or private, refuses or delays the provision of immediate medical assistance to the victim in violation of its statutory obligations under Section 397 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023;

d. Pass such other or further orders as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice and to safeguard the life, health and dignity of the victim"

[Sic]

7. At the very outset, the Registry is directed to register this IA in WP (C) No.1112/2025.

8. In light of the serious issue and the circumstances highlighted above, we direct the management of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to keep the acid attack victim (*name withheld from the order but it will be mentioned in the order to be sent to the hospital*) as an indoor patient and provide all facilities, including medicines and plastic surgery treatment, as and when required, or any other treatment irrespective of the cost that has to be incurred on such treatment.

9. Liberty is granted to the Management of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to forward the bills to this Court for appropriate directions regarding refund of the expenditure incurred by that hospital. However, the victim shall not be discharged unless it is certified by the doctor(s) that she is in a fit position to be discharged and would require only outdoor treatment.

10. A copy of this order be sent to Sri Ganga Ram Hospital today itself through fax.

11. The Delhi Police is directed to arrest the accused forthwith, if not already arrested and file a compliance report in this regard.

12. Similarly, the Superintendent of Sri Ganga Ram Hospital shall also file a compliance report.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI DILEEP KUMAR)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR