



**HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
LUCKNOW**

CRIMINAL MISC. WRIT PETITION No. - 8810 of 2023

Anil Kumar Khanna

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and others

.....Respondent(s)

Along with :

- 1. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 3780 of 2015:**
Ashutosh Dwivedi Thru Father Awadhesh Dwivedi and Ors
Versus
The State of U.P Thru Principal Secy. Home Lucknow and Ors.
- 2. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 26045 of 2018:**
Anil Kumar Tiwari
Versus
State of U.P. Thru Secy. Home Lucknow and Ors.
- 3. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 18405 of 2019:**
Smt.Beena Rani
Versus
State of U.P.Thru.Prin.Secy.Law and Ors.
- 4. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2366 of 2022:**
Kunwar Singh Yadav
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Deptt. and others
- 5. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 5879 of 2022:**
Dinesh Pratap Singh
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy./Prin. Secy. Deptt. of Home Lko. and others
- 6. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 1254 of 2023:**
Qamar Jabeen Siddiqui
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Deptt. Civil Sectt. Lko. and others
- 7. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 3500 of 2023:**
Poonam Singh and 2 others
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Deptt. of Home and 5 others
- 8. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 3537 of 2023:**
Sharda Shankar Rastogi and 2 others
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy./Prin. Secy. Home Civil Secrett. Lko. and 23 others
- 9. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 8629 of 2023:**
Subhansu Singh
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Civil Sectt. Lko. and others
- 10. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 8969 of 2023:**
Smt. Shabnam Rawat and another
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. Home Lko. and others

11. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 9576 of 2023:**
Qamar Nawab
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home, U.P. Lucknow and others
12. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 9881 of 2023:**
Mohd. Owais
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and others
13. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2114 of 2024:**
Pushkal Yadav
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and others
14. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2296 of 2024:**
Manju Yadav and another
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home. Lko. and others
15. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2584 of 2024:**
Moid Khan
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Deptt. of Home Lko and others
16. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2612 of 2024:**
Prince Singh
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. Home Lko. and others
17. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 2659 of 2024:**
Shalini Meerza and another
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and others
18. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 4235 of 2024:**
Parmanand Gupta
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Secy. Deptt. of Home Lko. and others
19. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 5208 of 2024:**
Abhay Pratap Singh Yadav, Advocate
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko and others
20. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 5487 of 2024:**
Shafaiz Khan
Versus
Union of India Thru. its Secy. Ministry of Law and Justice New Delhi and others
21. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 6490 of 2024:**
Durga Prasad Nigam Domestic Scin. Sch. Socty. Thru. Vice Pres./Acting Pre Sanjeev Misra and another
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. Home Lko. and others
22. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 8325 of 2024:**
Asheesh Kumar Rai
Versus
Union of India Thru. Secy. Ministry of Law and Justic, New Delhi and others
23. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 8736 of 2024:**
Abdul Gaffar and another
Versus
State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Sectt. Lko and 16 others
24. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 8896 of 2024:**
Raghavram Verma
Versus
Bar Council U.P . Prayagraj Thru. Chairman and 4 others
25. **Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 9655 of 2024:**

- Vikas Verma
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko and others
26. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 10096 of 2025:
- Mahant Siyaram Dass
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and others
27. Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No. 10871 of 2025:
- Ravindra Bihari Srivastava and another
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. Home Govt. Lko. and others
28. Writ - C No. 9925 of 2010:
- Prashant Singh Gaur
- Versus
- State of U.P. and others
29. Writ - C No. 5189 of 2024:
- Krishna Murari Rastogi
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and 17 others
30. Writ - C No. 5318 of 2024:
- Jai Kumar Jain and 2 others
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. / Prin. Secy. Home Lko. and 6 others
31. Public Interest Litigation (pil) No. 11201 of 2010:
- Janhit College of Law Noida Through its Manager
- Versus
- State of U.P. Through Prin. Secy. Higher Education Govt. of
32. Public Interest Litigation (pil) No. 32524 of 2018:
- Inrepeaceful Functioning of the Courts in Lucknow Judgeship
- Versus
- State of U.P. and others
33. Public Interest Litigation (pil) No. 746 of 2024:
- Devendra Gupta
- Versus
- State of U.P. Thru. Addl. Chief Secy. Home Lko. and others
34. Public Interest Litigation (pil) No. 958 of 2025:
- Saurabh Singh
- Versus
- Ramswaroop Memorial University Thru. Registrar Barabanki U.P. and 4 others

Counsel for Petitioner(s)

:

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Shukla, Prashant Singh Gaur, Prem Chandra Rai, Prince Lenin, Qamar Raza, R.p. Singh, Raghvendra Singh, Rajiv Kumar Bajpai, Ram Prakash Singh, Ripu Daman Shahi, Rishad Murtaza, Roshan Babu Gupta, S.c.shukla, Sachin Garg, Sandeep Kumar(trivedi), Sandip Kumar Dwivedi, Sankalp Agarwal, Shachindra Pratap Singh, Shivanshu Mishra, Siddharth Shankar Dubey, Suo Moto, Surya Nath, Sushil Kumar Singh, Syed Ali Jafar Rizvi, Syed Asaghar Mehdi, Vaibhav Sharma, Vartika Pandey, Vikrant Singh, Vimal Kumar, Yogendra Singh, Yogesh Somvanshi

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Court No. - 1

HON'BLE RAJAN ROY, J.
HON'BLE MANJIVE SHUKLA, J.

(Order on IA/8/2026 in CRLP No.8810 of 2023 & connected matters)

1. This Bench has been constituted at about 7:00 P.M. under the orders of Hon'ble the Chief Justice of this Court on an application submitted by Ms.

Abhipsa Mohanty, Advocate, Ms. Komal Agarwal, Advocate and Mr. Ashutosh Srivastava, Advocate alleging misbehavior and menhandling by certain advocates and also of being prevented from putting in appearance in a case i.e. Suit No.2933 of 2025 (Mohd. Shakir Vs. Saurabh Verma) before the District Court, Lucknow today. The said application has been numbered as IA/8/2026 in Criminal Misc. Writ Petition No.8810 of 2023 which is the leading writ petition in a bunch of petitions wherein similar issues are pending consideration.

2. As these proceedings are in public interest, therefore, we have dispensed with the requirement of an affidavit in support of the application, especially, considering the nature of the allegations and the urgency of the situation which can not be compromised on procedural technicalities.

3. It is mentioned in the application that the aforesaid advocates-applicants had to file a Vakalatnama on behalf of the plaintiffs in the said suit which was listed at item No.35 in the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) Ms. Neha Gangwar, however, the Court being vacant, on an urgency being mentioned, the matter was to be taken up before the Court No.41. As per the allegations in the application, Advocate Saurabh Kumar Verma alongwith his associates prevented the applicants herein from appearing in the Court in the said case. Not only the Advocates were manhandled, so was the plaintiff No.1-Mohd. Shakir who was also badly beaten up. Advocate Saurabh Kumar Verma and others are said to have not only physically assaulted the applicants and the plaintiff no. 1 but also threatened by saying “vakil ke against case karega tu”. It is alleged that the plaintiff was pushed outside towards the Court’s corridor and continuously assaulted by Advocate Saurabh Kumar Verma and his associates and when applicants tried to intervene and protect their client, they were assaulted by the abovementioned Advocates. Advocate Ashutosh Srivastava, who is one of the applicants, was even punched in his stomach and chest while protecting the client. The applicants had no other option but to run towards the chamber of Judge of Court no. 41. When the applicants tried to leave the said floor and mention before Hon’ble the District Judge, Advocate Saurabh Kumar Verma started howling at them and exhorted his lady associates to assault them. When

Advocate Ashutosh Srivastava one of the applicants tried to talk and mediate Advocate Saurabh Kumar Verma threatened by saying “tum mere against kaise case le liye” and “tum isme mat pado warna acha nahi hoga”. Thereafter, he thrashed their client Mohd. Shakir to the extent he was bleeding profusely. The applicants had no other option but to flee by taking the staircase.

4. The applicants before us have also narrated the background leading to the incident which happened today. According to them, their clients, the plaintiffs filed a suit for declaration of title and injunction against one Riyazuddin in respect of the suit property wherein the aforesaid Shri Saurabh Kumar Verma, Advocate appeared as a Counsel for Riyazuddin. According to them, during pendency of the suit the property was transferred by Riyazuddin in favour of Shri Saurabh Kumar Verma, Advocate. The said suit is still pending. Thereafter, the plaintiffs filed another suit, as mentioned hereinabove bearing No.2933 of 2025 arraying Shri Saurabh Kumar Verma as defendant No.1 alongwith other defendants. It is also informed that initially a temporary injunction was granted in favour of the plaintiffs in Suit No.2933 of 2025 but the same was vacated in January, 2026 without any authorization by the plaintiffs, an appeal was filed in their name before the High Court and got dismissed. As no other Counsel was ready to appear on behalf of the plaintiffs in Suit No.2933 of 2025 because of Shri Saurabh Kumar Verma and his accomplices and the clout which he wields, therefore, the applicants before us, who are advocates practicing primarily at Delhi, were engaged and were to file their Vakalatnama in the aforesaid suit bearing Suit No.2933 of 2025 but they were not only prevented from doing so in the circumstances narrated hereinabove but, were also manhandled, abused and humiliated. Most shocking their client Mohd. Shakir was brutally beaten.

5. In fact, earlier also on 30.04.2026, the other plaintiff Asif was manhandled. An attempt to lodge an F.I.R. at Police Station-Wazirganj with respect to the incident of 30.04.2026 did not succeed as the Station House Officer wanted a witness and only then he would lodge the F.I.R. whereas the incident having occurred in the Court premises, it was not possible to produce any witness, nevertheless, a complaint was made to

the Joint Commissioner of Police, who heads the Cell as referred by us hereinabove which was constituted in pursuance to various directions issued in the Bunch of writ petition leading writ petition being C.R.L.P. No. 8810 of 2023. The officers of the said Cell recorded the statement of Asif but the applicants appearing before us are not aware as to what happened thereafter.

6. It is also stated in the application that when the advocates went to the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) for filing Vakalatnama in Suit No.2933 of 2025 they were informed that the file would be taken up in Court No.41 in view of the urgency shown, by one court official Gyan. Other court officials were also present whom they are not able to name at present but they will be able to identify them. Mr. Gyan, an official of the District Court, Lucknow asked the advocates to call the plaintiff himself as it was a case of filing a fresh Vakalatnama and it has to be ascertained whether he has executed the Vakalatnama. The Aadhar card of the plaintiff was also sought. We asked learned District Judge as to whether this is the practice in the District Court at Lucknow, at least at this stage he says that it is not so. He should verify the circumstances under which the said Mr. Gyan or whosoever the court officer was, asked the advocates to bring the plaintiff, if it was so.

7. The plaintiff was in town for the purpose of filing application under Order 39 Rule 1 & 2 C.P.C in the aforesaid suit and it is only on the calling of the applicants at the behest of Court Officer that the plaintiff came to court and thereafter, the incident of beating him has taken place. The District Judge's report shall also dwell on this aspect.

8. The application clearly says that the advocate-applicants and the plaintiff were threatened with dire consequences and were also beaten up for having filed a case against an advocate and for attempting to put in appearance therein.

9. During course of these proceedings, a video was played by the said applicants, who are present in person. The video shows that some advocates including those whose names are mentioned in the application under consideration i.e. Saurabh Kumar Verma etc as identified by the

applicants were beating up a person whom the advocates before us identify as the plaintiff No.1.

10. It is informed by Sri Ashutosh Srivastav who is an advocate and is permanent resident of Lucknow that there are at least three criminal cases against Shri Saurabh Kumar Verma who appears to be an office bearer of Central Bar Association, Lucknow.

11. We do not say much at this stage except that if the incident as is alleged has happened, which prima facie appears to have happened based on the video played before us and the statements of the advocates before us then it is very serious matter. This is not the first time that such an incident has happened in District Court, Lucknow, in fact, such incidents compelled us to take cognizance of such matters in a bunch of petitions which includes Public Interest Litigation No.32524 of 2018 wherein several orders have been passed. In fact, we were compelled to constitute a Cell in the Police Commissionerate, Lucknow specifically to inquire into the activities of such persons who are either advocates or posing to be an advocate but are indulging in illegal acts such as land grabbing or house grabbing or are interfering with the judicial process in district courts etc.

12. The advocate-applicants before us also pray that in the circumstances prevailing it may not be feasible for suit proceedings of Suit No.2933 of 2025 to go on at Lucknow and it may also not be in the interest of justice considering the influence being exercised by Sri Saurabh Kumar Verma and his accomplices, therefore, the same be considered for transfer to any other district. We will consider this aspect as far as possible at the appropriate stage.

13. The advocates also say that the application has been submitted in a hurry, therefore, entire story and facts have not been narrated but they will do so, if given an opportunity by the police or before this Court in these proceedings.

14. It is also informed that reference to Court No.34 in the application needs verification as there is some doubt about the court number mentioned therein but the court was to be presided by Ms. Neha Gangwar,

Civil Judge (Senior Division) before whom the suit was listed.

15. The Commissioner of Police, Lucknow Shri Amrendra Kumar Sengar (I.P.S.) who has joined these proceedings through video conferencing on our asking, has informed that the plaintiff No.1-Shakir who has been beaten up, has been sent for medical examination. He also informed that the other side i.e. one Harshit Pandey has given an application against the said person, however, the version of Shri Shakir has also been recorded.

16. The District Judge, Lucknow alongwith the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Lucknow have also joined these proceedings through video conferencing.

17. The matter not only involves commission of an offence by the alleged persons but also of interference in the dispensation of justice.

18. The District Judge, Lucknow says that he has gone through the CCTV footage and has identified some of the advocates who are seen indulging in the commission of an offence including manhandling of the plaintiff referred hereinabove as also some of the applicants. The District Judge, Lucknow shall submit his report as also copy of the CCTV footage before this Bench tomorrow at 10:15 A.M. sharp.

19. The Commissioner of Police, Lucknow who has also joined these proceedings shall also similarly submit a report in this regard tomorrow at 10:15 A.M.

20. The Commissioner of Police, Lucknow shall also collect information in this regard from the Cell headed by the Joint Commissioner of Police in this regard as to the antecedents of Sri Saurabh Kumar Verma, Sri Abhay Pratap Verma, Sri Harshit Pandey etc. or any other advocate or person who may have been involved in the incident which took place today in the District Court at Lucknow.

21. The Deputy Commissioner of Police concerned and the S.H.O. of Police Station-Wazirganj shall be present before this Court tomorrow at 10:15 A.M. sharp. The Commissioner of Police, Lucknow shall join these proceedings through video conferencing.

22. The District Judge, Lucknow shall also depute some responsible

officer (not a judicial officer) of the District Court, Lucknow for producing the report along with copy of the CCTV footage for perusal of this Court.

23. The applicants-Advocates whose names and details are mentioned in the application shall be provided adequate security by the Police Commissionerate, Lucknow as they are staying in Lucknow with respect to the aforesaid suit and these proceedings i.e. till they are in Lucknow. Their entry and appearance before this Court tomorrow at 10:15 A.M. shall be facilitated by adequate security measures and the Senior Registrar of this Court at Lucknow shall facilitate their entry and appearance before this Court tomorrow.

24. The plaintiff no.1-Mohd.Shakir shall be produced by the police before this Court tomorrow at 10:15 sharp.

25. Put up this case tomorrow i.e. on **22.07.2026 at 10:15 A.M.**

26. Senior Registrar of this Court is directed to communicate this order to the District Judge, Lucknow and to the Commissioner of Police, Lucknow for compliance on their whatsapp number.

(Manjive Shukla,J.) (Rajan Roy,J.)

July 21, 2026
-Piyush-/Shanu/R.K.P./