

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF BOMBAY AT GOA****LD-VC-CRI-19-2020**

Mr. Sameer Bhat.

.... Petitioner.

*Versus*

State of Goa and ors.

.... Respondents.

Mr. Abad Ponda, Senior Advocate with Mr. Parag Rao, Advocate for the Petitioner.

Mr. Pravin Faldessai, Addl. Public Prosecutor for the Respondent Nos.1 and 2.

Mr. Aryama Sundaran, Senior Advocate with Mr. Shivan Desai, Advocate for the Respondent No.3.

**Coram : M. S. SONAK, &**

**SMT. M. S. JAWALKAR, JJ.**

**Date : : 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

P.C.:

Heard Mr. Abad Ponda, learned Senior Advocate with Shri P. Rao, learned Advocate for the Petitioner. Mr. A. Sundaran, learned Senior Advocate with Mr. Shivan Desai, learned Advocate

for the respondent no.3 and Mr. Pravin Faldessai, learned Addl. Public Prosecutor for the respondent nos.1 and 2.

2. We issue Rule in this petition. However, we clarify that we are not granting any interim relief and therefore, the investigation can proceed in accordance with law.

3. The petitioner has a grievance about an order by which his application for return of passport/leave to travel abroad is rejected by the learned Sessions Court. If that be so, the petitioner is at liberty to challenge such order in accordance with law.

4. In case of such challenge, no doubt, that the challenge shall be decided and considered on its own merits after affording an opportunity of hearing to the concerned parties.

5. In the mean while, we feel that the petitioner and the respondent no.3 should explore the possibility of arriving at a settlement. If such a settlement is indeed arrived at, we grant liberty to the parties to apply.

**SMT.M.S.JAWALKAR, J.**

**M. S. SONAK, J.**

MF/-