

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

Crl.A No. 18 of 2021

Date of order: 14.09.2022

Gaisinglung Meiringmei vs National Investigation Agency (NIA)

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjib Banerjee, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Appellant : Mr S. Thapa, Adv.

For the Respondent : Dr N. Mozika, ASG with
Ms A Pradhan, Adv.
Mr K. Ch. Gautam, Adv.

This is, in effect, a petition for bail. The petitioner has remained in custody for nearly four years and eight months. The matter has been pending in this Court for a year or more.

Orders have been passed in the present proceedings from time to time to ensure a speedy trial. The principal charges are under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The trial is continuing and it is submitted on behalf of the National Investigation Agency that the trial is taken up on at least two days every week and the evidence of 19 witnesses has already been recorded.

The NIA submits that though it had proposed to bring more than 117 witnesses, it will cut the number down to almost half, to the extent practicable, to expedite the trial. Upon this Court indicating that however grievous charges may be brought against an accused, a period of nearly five years was more than enough detention prior to conviction, it is

Accordingly, let this petition appear towards the end of November, 2022 in the hope that most of the witnesses, including the protected witnesses, would have had their evidence recorded by then.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

Meghalaya
14.09.2022
"Sylvana PS"

