Human Rights: A Role of Judicial Activism Critical Analysis

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Abstract

In simple words, mob lynching is a murder totally illegal by an unlawful and angry mob or group of persons. "Rise of mob lynching in India is observing a high rise in cases relating to violence amounts to murder. When the people take law into their own hands it becomes dangerous for the victim who is in threat of their lives. It has been analyzed that the lynching or public disorder rise up from 8% to over 20%. The agony against this recent mob violence has been overt among a large section of the citizens. The increase in Lynching incidents in India shows a strange barbarous behavior of humans during the 21st century. Lynching involved injury or murder of a person who is a criminal or accused of a crime against society. One of the strangest reasons for lynching today is inter cast marriage, cow slaughter, cattle smuggling or beef consuming. Mostly the victims of Lynching in India are persons belonging to minorities of that particular area such as Dalits and Muslims".

Keywords:- Lynching, Human Rights, Victims & Mob-Lynching.

Introduction

"The rule of law can prevail only if people and institutions respect and follow the laws." In every democratic country the backbone of democracy is the rule of law. The same is guaranteed by the Indian Constitution under Article 21 as it provides protection to the life and liberty of every individual and such person cannot be deprived of except procedure established by law. Now it is very old concept that kings never do wrongs but today everyone is equal in the eyes of law whether king or an ordinary person. Everyone including government or its officials is supposed to follow the ordinary law of the land.

Former President of USA Abraham Lincon defined the term democracy as "the government of people, by the people and for the people" the same objective is provided in the preamble of our Constitution. The very objective of the Constitution is to establish the common brotherhood and harmony in the people of India. Every innocent one shall be protected from the offenders and wrong doers shall be punished not by themselves but according to the procedure established by law.

With all these security measures available to every individual of India, the incidents of mob lynching have increased steadily. The mob tends to take law in his hands just on some doubts, and blurs the so-called "justice".

In the case of 'National Human Rights Commission V. State of Gujarat and others¹, Hon'ble the Apex Court observed as under':

"Communal harmony is the hallmark of a democracy. No religion teaches hatred. If in the name of religion, people are killed, that is essentially a slur and blot on the society governed by the rule of law. The Constitution of India, in its Preamble refers to secularism. Religious fanatics really do not belong to any religion, they are no better than terrorists who kill innocent people for no rhyme or reason in a society which as noted above is governed by the rule of law."

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¹ (2009) 6 SCC 342

Hon'ble Justice of Supreme Court Dipak Mishra, in the case of *S. Krishna Shradha* V. State of A.P²., viewed that "A right is conferred on a person by the rule of law and if he seeks a remedy through the process meant for establishing the rule of law and it is denied to him, it would never sub serve the cause of real justice."

For a peaceful society it is necessary that the criminal justice system should be perfectly administers which is the backbone and need for a successful democracy. "The society should be made free from crimes so that every citizen of our country can lead a peaceful life and enjoy their rights. It is only possible through efficient criminal justice administration, which is one of the cornerstones of good governance. The criminal justice administration must perform its duty by punishing perpetrators of crime without any delay to inspire confidence and create an attitude of respect for the rule of law. But unfortunately many a time the police is not ready to register the FIR. If police registers an FIR, either a very weak case is made out or there are so many flaws in the case prepared that it cannot stand on the judicial scrutiny of the court and it ultimately helps the accused in acquittal yet the victim could not get justice. Justice eludes the victims. The criminal justice administration should maintain balance in the society in order to prevent crime and deliver justice to the victim".³

Uncontrollable, people have to pause and reflect" and be proactively vigilant to save the basic tenets of our country." The country to stand up against the rising trend of mob lynchings, stressing that the frenzy needed to be curbed.

But because of too remote possibilities of punishment the criminals feels free and habitually violates the rules and regulations established by law and it becomes very common for them to challenge the law and order "If administration wants to establish the rule of law in the society, it should prosecute and punish the criminals; otherwise it would be difficult to get any reasonable rule of law in the country. The government should uphold the rule of law by punishing those who involved such kinds of incident of lynching in different part of the country. It is necessary that the government has to from the anti-

² (2017) 4 SCC 516, para 27

³ (2017) 4 SCC 516, para 27

lynching squad to prevent these kinds of lynching throughout India. It is also necessary that 'Anti-lynching law' should be passed".

"Mob lynching is violence by a crowd which results in the killing or maiming of a person or persons charged with or suspected of a crime. Lynching is an extrajudicial punishment to the accused or suspected person by the crowd or informal group without having any legal authority. In India, lynching and mob violence generally replicate internal tensions between several racial communities. As mob lynching is similar to ordinary murder so other criteria are necessary to define what lynching is. There could be two presumptions regarding lynching. First, there must be legal evidence of a person's illegal death. Second, there must be evidence of group participation in the killing under the strategy of service to justice, race, or tradition".

There is no place in any civilized society for mob lynching. It cannot be justified the killing of a person by another person or by mob whether the grounds are reasonable or not. It amounts to destroy the whole system of law and order in the society when an incident of lynching takes place in a civilized society. Generally, Lynching is considered as a form of immediate righteousness action against a crime by the mob even such mob has no authority to do the same or not guided by law.⁴

Lynching and like actions of brutality have no sanction of law hence are considered as inhumane and illegal. If a crowd of persons penalizes any individual whom they supposed responsible for a crime and kills him without following any legal trial is called lynching of that individual. In another words, lynching is a punishment which is extrajudicial to the suspected or accused person by the crowd having no legal authority.

In India, mob violence or lynching generally reflect internal disputes between various racial communities. In 2018 media reports on mob violence reveal that such events of violence and cruelty on Dalits and minorities are rapidly increasing nowadays. According to media reports up to June 2016, a total of 30 cow-terror attacks was reported on mob lynching, "it has been found that a total of 45 Indians has been killed by a mob over the

⁴ www.jurip.org. Visited at 12/02/2024 on 11.00 A.M.

seven-year period in 83 incidents and 135 people were injured in these mob attacks. More than half (51%) of these attacks were based on rumors and 49% of violence cantered on bovine issues over nearly eight years (2010 to 2017) this report explicitly stated that those who were attacked by mobs were Dalits".⁵

Mob - Lynching is an action by group of violent people which takes life of another person without any authority or legal sanction. It amounts to extrajudicial sentence like public hanging to take revenge or to teach a lesson to a suspected offender. It is also defined as vigilantism in which a group of self-appointed people takes law in their hands to enforce having no legal authority.

The word 'lynch' originated first time during the American Revolution and phrased as 'Lynch Law' in which punishment is granted without any trial or due process. "The term 'lynching' or 'lynching law' has been derived its name from the two American citizens known as Charles Lynch and William Lynch who were from Virginia city. During 1782, Charles Lynch had written that the 'Loyalist' or 'Tories' who were supporters of the British side developed Lynching Law especially for the 'Negroes' to deal with them according to their will. It has recently led to a series of protests and demonstrations (including the "Not in My Name" campaign) in many parts of the country. A wave of mob lynching was linked to messages that circulated on WhatsApp and other electronic media groups. The violence has been blamed on rumours of child kidnappings, spread over these groups, which have led people to attack strangers. Lynching has been a new tendency in India. We have been observing a number of cases regarding lynching in India nowadays. Some of the reasons are fair yet some are worthless. In such cases, many innocents have been brutally tortured and some even lost their lives". 6

In a country where Hindus are in majority and cow is considered as an honored mammal. It can be a reason of mob violence if slaughter and consumption of beef is found anywhere because it is considered as a sin and crimes. Although until now, it is not strictly enforced. Being a cheaper than other animals' meat, easily available and a rich source of

⁵ http:/www.casirj.com visited at 13/02/2024 on 01:00P.M.

⁶ www.socialsciencejournal.in, visited at 11/02/2024 on 08:13A.M.

protein the beef of cow is consumed by Muslims and Dalits as there is no taboo in their religion or community. In recent times, it is also become a channel of hate and violence especially against Muslims from the arisen of cow vigilantes in India. Murder of Junaid Khan in a train commuting in Haryana province (June, 2017); murder of Alimuddin Ansari by Go-Rakshak-Dal (so-called 'cow protector'), in Jharkhand's busy road (July, 2017); Go-Rakshak-Dal also murdered Pehlu Khan in a very busy place (May, 2017), in a District of Rajasthan State and there are so many incidents in other parts of the country with similar happenings took place in recent years. The members of mob generally are a private gang who participates in dispensing all set righteousness on sufferer alleged person by such gang with the action of delivering punishment before public openly. In most of the incidents the attackers use multimedia platform and share the pictures and videos of their heinous crime. One thing which is common among the mob incidents is eating or possession of beef and cow slaughtering.⁷

The act of lynching although affects to individual only and generally single person is targeted even it has wider impact on entire society whether directly or indirectly. In America at the earliest of the Ninetieth century mob violence was used so methodically to disempowering Blacks. IB Wells-Barnett, who was not only a leader of the Anti-Lynching campaign in 1890 but also attract the attention of the society towards its impact on entire community, humanity, safety and security of individual, economic threat to the country and he recognized it against the human being and one of the biggest threat to the American-African relations. Mob lynching also creates fear in the mind of all American-Africans, to compel surrender and submission before superior race, and also to underline the limits of black freedom. Collective violence that takes place in an ostensibly passive time is considered as lynching, further it creates a feeling of loss and fear. Lynching is quite different we cannot cloth it as a riot or divergence; instead, it makes examples which mean there is no one who is safe or whose life is uninterrupted. William Oliver has described it as "Inferior Process" which is a type of bodily cruelty and a branch of "the systematic stress attack including the entire composite of political, legal,

⁷ http://timesofindia.com/city/delhi/accused-in-junaid-case-has-confessed-police/articleshow/59518467.cms, Visited at 11/02/2024 on 05:00 P.M.

educational, economic, military, religious, and mass media institutions controlled by Whites" (Oliver1989). In India a new fear which minorities are facing and are on the target of such violent people i.e. mob lynches. The ignorance or rejection of the rule of law and self-enforcing justice by mob further prejudice and marginalize the victims, society has to carry on the effects over the generations. Lynching or collective violence not only affects the life of the victim but also affects the life, liberty and property of the executor, neighbour and entire society. It also includes injurious security mechanisms like, "diminish compassion for victims" (2014 Nina Berman), that leads to intensify brutal behaviours so can mark the persons who are not within the list of group. The desensitized people, who are usually in groups, by taking the law and order in their own hands and commit crime against the targeted individuals whomever they select as to their target.⁸

Lynching is typically defined as "an illegal and summary execution at the hands of a violent mob. In the United States, lynching is one of the most horrible chapters in American history, the terrorism of African American minority groups by White ones. Estimates of the number of.

African America victims of lynching in the United States during the late 19th and 20th centuries have ranged from, 2789 to 3,417 (Dray, 2002). Although lynching in the United States has come to define a certain time in the past and a culture that was less complicated and less educated, the crime as lynching is in fact timeless. Lynching, like hate crimes, racial cleansing, and genocide, explicitly represents an illustration of intergroup aggression that occurred within a social context and like most real-world phenomena. Lynching has generally been explained in terms of the majority group's desire to maintain its majority position in their society".

The recently occurred incidents of mob violence are alarms for the Government to the make and implement a strong law for the protection of innocent human beings. As there is no any special or particular provision is given in IPC which provides lynching as an offense. Being a secular, democratic and socialist State, Indian Constitution provides

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 9Abrams, D. (1994) Social Self-regulation. Personality and social psychology Bulletin, 20, 473-483.

justice and safeguard to all its citizens although having a mixed culture, different languages, faith, beliefs and religious foundations, yet there are possibilities that there could be some contrast among these groups. For the protection of legal as well as basic rights of individuals, like Right to life and personal liberty under Art. -21 and Right to fair hearing or trial under Art. -20 & 21 in civil and criminal matters which are considered as the most important among all rights as these cannot be abolished even in national emergency i.e. Art. 352. The rule of strict and absolute liability shall be coupled with lynching incidents and similar provisions to be placed in the IPC to deal accordingly. It is important for the application and implementation of laws related to anti-lynching in India as soon as possible because mob lynching offense is increased by day to day in different forms. The fundamental provision of Art 21 - Right to life and the Preamble of the Indian Constitution also states its noble objectives which are to be achieved and shall be keep in mind while applying any policy which are directly or indirectly related to the safety, security and dignity of the citizens of India. A law must be strict and effective as no one shall have any special privilege to mould the law according to their wishes or to take it into their own hands.¹⁰

The term Mob Lynching is find place to the mid of eighteenth century in USA, Where more than 200 Anti-lynching bills were introduced to curb this problem in the USA Congress in the forgoing 150 years but without any success. In North American pioneers lynching was a common thing among them and in the frontier commonly where no legal institutions were yet established. Recently the accused of rape, cattle or horse stealing or crimes seemed to be capital in nature used to be punished with the act of mob lynching and lessen crimes used to be punished by exile or other lessen punishments. Legal institutions must be duly established so as to there is no requirement of Pioneer Vigilance Committees to interfere with any legal institution. Lynching means maiming, killing or unlawfully hanging of a person by the action of a mob. The term lynching is extracted from the name of Captain W. Lynch of Pittsylvania Company Ltd. (1742- 1820), he used to punish loyal persons to the crown during the American Revolution by using extra legal

¹⁰ 10Abrams,D &Hogg, M.A. (2001), Collective identity: Group-membership, and self-conception. In M.B. Brewer & M.Hewstone (eds.),self and social identity (p.p.147) Malden, M A. Blackwell

proceedings. The most common application of the term lynching was used during the racial violence in post-civil war in the South America.

The Supreme Court while renouncing its verdict on a PIL filed by Mr. Tushar Gandhi (the great- grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) called mob lynching as "horrendous acts of mobocracy" and ordered the Central and all State Governments to take "preventive, remedial and punitive measures" to eradicate it "with iron hands".¹¹

Today, lynchings become a major issue which is not a problem restricted to the US or India but it spread all over the world. Quoting this issue many reports of the UN refer to mob lynching cases from Nigeria, Sudan, Haiti, Yamane, and other states. As per the UN Police reports 2014, lynching is widespread in Haiti. "The number of known cases of lynching increased from 95 in 2009 to 130 in 2012 in this country. In India, there is no separate data maintained for mob lynching cases. Reports of lynching have become further, public in current times. Recently, Nigeria drafted and presented an anti-lynching bill. Some countries have tried to curb lynching by controlling social media regarding fake news. Malaysia has framed anti-lynching law and in April 2017 a man became the first person to be convicted for posting fake videos on YouTube. Three legislators including Indian American citizen Kamala Harris introduced an Anti-Lynching Bill in the US Senate in July 2017¹². Since 1918 more than 200 anti-lynching bills have been introduced to Congress, Republican Representative Leoni das Dyer of Missouri had introduced the first. In the first of its kind Act, the United States Senate passed a resolution in the year 2005 apologizing for not passing anti-lynching law for more than 100 years. The new bill states that at least 4,750 people were lynched in the US between 1882 and 1968 and 99 percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped punishment. If the US Congress passes the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, the crime would punishable by life imprisonment. India has not yet developed any special mechanism for overcoming crimes like lynching. 13 I.P.C. does not mention the word "lynching". However, S. 223(a) of the Cr.P.C, 1973 talks about

¹¹ https://www.businesss-standard.com/article/current-affairs/make-law-to-prevent-horrendous-acts-of-mobocracy-sc-govt-on-lynchings-1180717002591.html, visited at 10/02/2024, on 12:09P.M.

¹²Live Law. in, Government, lynching and Rule of law (July 5,2017) available at https://www.livelaw.in/government-governance-lynching-rule- law, Visited at 12/01/2024 on 11:54 A.M. ¹³ Ibid

the procedure according to which persons involved in a crime like lynching or similar nature or involved in the same offence can be tried together if the act done by them all is same. But unfortunately this provision is not sufficient and does not help much in delivering justice in cases of mob lynching".¹⁴

A political society group called, the "National Campaign against Mob Lynching" started by young leaders Jignesh Mewani, Tehseen S. Poonawalla, Kanhaiya and Shehla Rashid prepared a draft named, Maanav Suraksha Kanoon (MASUKA) in 2016. It was presented in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha). Lynching is a method of brutality where a mass, under the ploy of directing the execution of alleged criminals without any procedure or trial in the name of justice, generally by imposing corporal mutilation and physical torture.¹⁵

As the severe menace of violence casts, a horrifying picture over huge strips of the society, guidelines from the Supreme Court of India to all state governments and the Central Governments to adopt necessary and adequate measures to avoid "horrendous acts of mobocracy" can only be welcomed. Innovative law will work if slits in existing law are what stop state administrations from acting authoritatively and justly against lynch mobs. The court has asked Parliament to consider passing a special law on mob lynching. It is essential to protect citizens and ensure that the "pluralistic social fabric" of the country holds against mob lynching.¹⁶

Mob Lynching is not only "mobocracy" but a collective hate crime against the human beings. For Example, "mob violence may be flashed by differences over claims of cow trespassing or slaughter, or theft of livestock or child kidnapping, or something even as trivial as a seat in an unreserved train compartment. Whatever the apparent cause, lethal mobs gather to lynch people of hated characteristics with gratuitous cruelty. India Spend surveyed that 86 percent of persons killed were Muslim and 8 percent Dalits, in cowrelated lynching".¹⁷

¹⁴ The Criminal Procedure Code, 1973

¹⁵ Lynching mob violence, https://www.britannica.com/topic/lynching, Visited at 21/01/2024 on 07:32 P.M.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ https://www.thequint.com/quintlab/lynching-in-India, Visited ate 21/01/2024, on 12:06P.M.

The recent muddle of mob lynchings based on rumours of child kidnapping aimed strangers and mentally challenged persons. Recently, "India is witnessing from past 20 years an unfamiliar surge in corruption associated with mob, some times in the name of belief, religion or kidnapping etc. Although the rapidly increasing in the system of wary against cow slaughter later in spread to kidnapping and further sorts of misconducts leads to mob violence".

In 2018," 28 people across nine Indian states have been lynched in separate incidents, which have been triggered by rumours spread on social media. Of these, more than 20 people were victims of mob lynching in the last two months alone.¹⁸

Meaning of Mob-Lynching

As per the dictionary meaning, lynch means "to put to death, especially by hanging by mob action and without legal authority. Mob Lynching means assassination of someone by a mass for an alleged offence without following any values of jurisprudence or due process of law".¹⁹

Mob Lynching could be a means to tell a population belonging to minority that the local law of the land is not sufficient to protect it against the will of majority. Mob violence is a system of cruelty in which a violent group executes a presumed criminal under the alleged reason of directing fairness by corporal mutilation or torture and of course without following any procedure or trial in the self-created courts.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term mob lynching as an action of assassination of an alleged criminal person by having no legal sanction or without following due process. In olden period, such types of acts were involving stoning of an individual to award him demise. Sometimes on mere suspicion or believing on rumour, mob used kill a suspicious offender without considering any evidence or witnesses. Like rape or murder it is also measured as a heinous offence by and against the human beings. The crowd filling in as

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ www.socialsciencejournal.in, Visited at 20/01/2024, on 02:07 P.M.

"judge, jury, and killer" would complete their unconstrained or prearranged demonstration of murdering with total exemption and with no fear of law.²⁰

The lexicon significance of Lynch says, "Murder somebody for a supposed offense without a lawful preliminary. "Lynching" started in mid-eighteenth-century USA. Starting point of "lynching" is followed to "two individuals named Charles Lynch and William Lynch, who lived in Virginia in the United States".

Another definition given by other Dictionaries of Mob Lynching is, "killing of someone by a mob for an alleged offence without following any principles of law or due process of law".²¹

"The legal definition of Mob lynching, the legal definition of lynching is where three or more persons who constitute a mob, put someone to death extra-legal without court sanction and without legal sanction and they do it for the purpose of tradition and whatever their version of justice.²² According to Collins Dictionary, lynching means a group of people who condemn and punish a person without a fair trial".²³

Various terms Mob, Lynching, Victim, Offensive Material and Offender has been defined and provided a certain definition in the proposed draft of Protection from Lynching Act, 2017. Though the word lynching has not been defined anywhere in the IPC but the proposed Bill has given specific meaning to this term, according to it lynching means and includes a declared offence completed by a series of transaction as clearly defined u/s 141,149,302 and 326 of the IPC. Although the act of mob or any act of lynching has not been mentioned in any statute including IPC but the transactions or act of series that form part of the offence are defined as an offence, consequently making the whole act or course punishable accordingly.

a) 'lynching' "will mean any demonstration or arrangement of demonstrations of savagery, regardless of whether unconstrained or arranged, focused on delivering

²⁰ Lynch, English Oxford living Dictionary available at https//enoxforddictionaries.com/definition/lynch, visited at 23/01/2024, on 01:00 A.M.

²¹ https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/mob-lynching, Visited at 24/01/2024, on 02:03 P.M.
²² Ibid.

²³ 24https://www.collinsdictionary.com/mob-lynching, Visited at 25/01/2024 on 03:21P.M.

- extra-legal discipline, or as a demonstration of dissent and brought about by the craving of a horde to authorize upon an individual or gathering of people any apparent lawful, cultural and social standards/preferences";
- b) 'Mob' "will mean a gathering of at least two people, amassed with an aim of lynching";
- c) 'Victim' "will mean any individual, who has endured physical, mental, mental or money related damage because of the commission of any offense under this Act, and incorporates their family members, lawful watchman and legitimate beneficiaries of an expired unfortunate casualty".
- d) 'Offensive material' will mean "any material that can be sensibly interpreted to have been made to impel a crowd to lynch an individual and will incorporate material advancing lynching on the grounds of religion, race, culture or some other ground".²⁴

Nature of Lynching

"The lynching took various forms, ranging from hangings and shootings administered by small groups of men in secret, to possess meting out summary justice at the conclusion of a manhunt, to large public spectacles with broad community participation. The classic public lynching for which the South became so notorious always involved torture and mutilation and ended in death for the victim, either by hanging or, increasingly, by being burned alive. The lynching ritual typically comprised prior sign of the event, the choice of a symbolically noteworthy site, and the assembly of a large crowd of spectators, including women and children".

"Mobs typically sought to elicit confessions from their victims and frequently allowed them to pray before the final act of the drama. Lynches often left the bullet-ridden bodies of hanging victims on public display as a warning to other potential transgressors. In both hangings and Burnings, mobs tortured, mutilated, castrated (in the case of males), and even dismembered their victims. The victim of the alleged crime or a victim's close

²⁴ Protection from Lynching Act, 2017.

relative often played a prominent role in the ritual. A particularly gruesome feature of lynching was the taking of souvenirs in the form of body pieces, bone fragments salvaged from the ashes, or photographs".

SOCIAL DESCRIPTIONS

The major objectives of lynching; -

- First is the societal phase: fighting some societal wrongs.
- Second aspect is Economic.

For instance; - "Upon positively murdering a black farmer or refugee merchant, the land would be accessible and the marketplace opened for White Americans. The Terror and intimation produced by lynching can effectively serve as weapons in economic warfare. This motive was particularly prevalent in the past civil war South in America. Supporters of the Confederacy were barred from holding a public position of power; they sought to assert themselves through this economic warfare, which took the form of lynching the newly empowered African Americans".²⁵

Conclusion

Life is priceless, and the cutting-edge state is obligated to protect the lives of its citizens. Under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, the state bears the responsibility of ensuring the lives of a large number of people. Be that as it may, the ongoing expanding episodes of horde lynching and the occurrences of slaughter are a test to the legislature. These violations should be checked to ensure the majority rule the government of the country. During this investigation, we have determined that the rate at which man butchering is increasing necessitates the enactment of novel legislation to handle the crime of crowd lynching and slaughter. Furthermore, the country's customary law is

²⁵Dray, Philip, At The Hands of Persons Unknown: The Lynching of black America. New York: The Modern Library, 2002. Print.

insufficient to handle such offences. Mob lynching and brutality are some of the harshest. callous, and corrupt forms of violence. Lynching is depends upon the behaviour of society and it is being accepted. There are no role of religion, caste, race, belief, or group of people. Not a single reason behind the ignition of lynching is greater than the other. Any action leading to violence must be punished. Racial outbreaks actions against Nigerian students who were suspected of doing drugs, people suspected of carrying beef, local communities are given fatwa to kill people, as well as the murder of a 70-year sage that happened recently and two others by an angry mob, are all different aspects of mob lynching. A similar pattern follows throughout, an all-out notion of the judge, jury, and executioner acting on the very occasion, the most talked-about sentence, enhancing the sense of justice through lynching and mutilating, while the gathering delightfully witnesses the show. In the Kangaroo Court case, the Supreme Court of India was overshadowed by such "extra-judicial killings" and stated categorically that lynching was unfavorable to the Rule of Law. In July 2018, the Supreme Court released specific recommendations on the preventive, corrective, and punitive aspects of lynching, instructing state governments to implement them as soon as possible. The SHO was ordered to take urgent steps to file a FIR, and if it was discovered that the police had failed to prevent such an activity, the officers would face appropriate consequences. To ensure a rapid conviction of mob lynchers, special fast track courts were established.

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