

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL

IN THE MATTER OF: **UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM**

Dated 28th day of January, 2025

Present: **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MICHAEL ZOTHANKHUMA**



ORDER

Heard Mr. S.C. Keyal, learned Counsel for the Home Ministry, Government of India. Also heard Mr. M. Phukan, learned counsel for the State of Assam. Mr. Dithakananda Hazarika, ACS, Additional Secretary, Home & Political Department, Government of Assam, Mr. Diganta Borah, IPS, IGP, SB, Assam, Mr. Prasanta Saikia, IPS, SP., SOU, SB, Assam. Mr. Munindra Nath Deori, APS, SP(Law) CID, Assam and Sri Abhilekh Anjan Gogoi, Deputy Secretary, Judicial Department, Assam are present for the State.

A notification dated 25th November, 2024 was issued by the Government of India in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, stating the reasons and grounds for declaring the United Liberation Front of Asom (hereinafter referred to as 'ULFA') as an unlawful association within the meaning of Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). Thereafter, another Gazette Notification, dated 23rd December, 2024 was issued in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, constituting this Tribunal for adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the aforesaid organization as an unlawful association under the Act.

A reference has been received by this Tribunal in terms of Section 4(1) of the Act vide letter No. 11011/03/2024-NE.V, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, North East Division dated 23rd December, 2024.

After perusal of relevant documents along with other accompaniments submitted by the Ministry, this tribunal decided to hold a preliminary hearing and accordingly date was fixed on 24.01.2025. Further, notices were also sent to

concerned government agencies for their appearance before the Tribunal for preliminary hearing. But, vide dated 17.01.2025, this Tribunal received a letter from the Home and Political Department, Government of Assam with a request for adjournment and to alter the date of preliminary hearing as well. Considering the cause shown, this Tribunal had rescheduled the date for preliminary hearing and fixed the hearing on 28.01.2025 i.e. today.

On consideration of the material placed on record by the Central Government and after hearing Mr. S.C. Keyal, Ld. Special Counsel, Union of India, Mr. M. Phukan, learned Counsel for the State of Assam and the representatives of the Department of Home, Government of Assam, I am, prima facie, satisfied that notice under Section 4(2) of the Act should be issued to the aforesaid organization along with all its factions, wings and front organizations as well as that of its principal office bearers, to show cause within thirty days from the date of service of the notice, as to why they should not be declared unlawful. Ordered accordingly.

The notice shall be served upon the ULFA in the following manner:

- (i) By Speed Post/Registered A/D at the last known addresses of ULFA along with all its factions, wings and front organizations as well as that of its principal office bearers.
- (ii) Service of notice be also effected on the Office Bearers of the ULFA in Assam at its addresses, if any or if under detention, through the Superintendent (Jail) concerned.
- (iii) By publication along with a copy of the Gazette Notification dated 25th November, 2024 in two daily newspapers, one in a National Newspaper (in English) and the other one in prominent local vernacular language newspaper, having wide circulation in the areas where the activities of the ULFA are ordinarily carried on, within 14 days from today.
- (iv) By affixation of the notice along with a copy of the Gazette notification dated 25th November, 2024 at the last known addresses of the ULFA along with all its factions, wings and front organizations as well as its principal office bearers.
- (v) By a proclamation by beating of drums as well as loudspeakers about the contents of the notice and the Notification dated 25th



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November,2024, in the areas in which the activities of the ULFA were or are ordinarily carried on.

- (vi) By displaying the notice along with a copy of the Gazette notification dated 25th November,2024 on the notice board of the Deputy Commissioner, SDM and Superintendent of Police in all the district headquarters of the state(s) where the activities of the ULFA were or are believed to be ordinarily carried on.
- (vii) Notice be also served on the State Government of Assam through its Chief Secretary.
- (viii) The Notice and the Gazette notification dated 25th November,2024 be also announced in the All India Radio/electronic media at the prime time and shall also be pasted at the prominent places in the States where the activities of the ULFA were or are believed to be carried on.
- (ix) By affixing copies of the notice at some conspicuous parts of the offices, if any, of the ULFA.
- (x) By publishing on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs, Union of India and of the Department of Home and Political, Government of Assam.
- (xi) By any other possible modes, including e-mail etc.

The Central Government as well as the State Government of Assam shall make necessary and adequate arrangements for service of notice.

The report of service of the notice shall be submitted to the Registrar of the Tribunal in the office chamber of the Deputy Registrar (recruitment-I) on 10.02.2025 duly supported by affidavits of the concerned officer(s)/official(s), who have effected the service along with supporting documents.

The Registrar of the Tribunal shall do the needful.

Meanwhile, the Central Government and the State Government(s) will submit their respective affidavits and documents, including List of Witnesses, to support their stand that the aforesaid Association is an unlawful Association.

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The next sitting of the Tribunal shall take place in Court No.2 (Old Block), Gauhati High Court on 04.03.2025 at 3:00 p.m

Copy of this order be given to Mr. S.C. Keyal, learned Special Counsel, Government of India and Mr. M. Phukan, learned Counsel for the State of Assam, and the representative of State of Assam for initiating necessary steps immediately, as per this order.



Dated, 28th day of January, 2025

**JUSTICE MICHAEL ZOTHANKHUMA
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL
IN THE MATTER OF ULFA**

**PRESIDING OFFICER
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL
IN THE MATTER OF
(ULFA)**

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION)
TRIBUNAL IN THE MATTER OF UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM (ULFA)**

Re: Notification No. S.O. 5053(E) dated 25th November, 2024, issued by the Central Government under section 3 (1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, declaring the United Liberation Front Of Asom (ULFA) to be unlawful association effect from the 27th day of November, 2024.

TO,

UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM (ULFA)



**SHOW-CAUSE NOTICE U/S 4(2) OF THE UNLAWFUL (ACTIVITIES)
PREVENTION ACT**

WHEREAS, the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) (hereinafter referred to as "The Act") has declared the **UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM (ULFA) along with all its factions, wings and front organizations** to be unlawful association with immediate effect from 27.11.2024 vide Notification No. S.O. 5053(E), (published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated 25th November, 2024).

AND WHEREAS, vide **Gazette Notification No. S.O. 5521(E) dated 23rd December, 2024**, in exercise of powers under Section 5 (1) of the Act, the Central Government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Michael Zothankhuma, Judge, Gauhati High Court, for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the said **UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM (ULFA) along with all its factions, wings and front organizations (ULFA)** as Unlawful Association as required by Sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Act.

Now, therefore, a Notice is hereby given under Sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act read with Rule 6 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Rules, 1968 and you are hereby called upon to show cause in writing within 30 days from the date of service of this Notice as to why the said **UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASOM**

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(ULFA) along with all its factions, wings and front organizations be not adjudicated for declaring as unlawful association and why an order should not be made confirming the declaration to the above effect made in the above mentioned Notification.

The objections/reply/written statement, if any, may be filed/delivered within the statutory period of 30 days from the date of service of the notice, before the Registrar of this Tribunal, i.e., the undersigned at the Chamber of the Deputy Registrar (Recruitment-I), 1st Floor, Gauhati High Court, (Old Block), Guwahati, Assam-781001. In case, objections/reply/written statements are in regional or vernacular language, true English Translation thereof should be also attached.

You are also required to appear before the Tribunal or may cause an appearance on your behalf before the tribunal on **04.03.2025 At 3.00 P.M.** in the Court Room No. 02, Gauhati High Court (Old Block), Guwahati, Assam-781001, either through a duly authorized representative or an instructed Counsel/Advocate, where after irrespective of your appearance, the Tribunal shall proceed as per Sub-Section (3) of Section 4 of the Act.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, this the 28th day of January, 2025.



Upam Kalita
28/01/2025
(Upam Kalita)
Registrar,
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal

REGISTRAR
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL
IN THE MATTER OF THE
UNITED LIBERATION FRONT OF ASSAM (ULFA)