

SC order probe into Assam fake counter cases by rights panel



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New Delhi Correspondent: In a major setback for the Assam Government, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to conduct an independent probe into the allegations of sensational fake encounter cases in Assam.

Hearing a PIL, a bench of the top court comprising Justices Kant and N Kotiswar Singh maintained that the role of human rights commissions as protectors of civil liberties is paramount. The court was confident that the rights body would perform its duties sincerely.

" It must be ensured that victims and family members are given fair opportunity...state HRC to issue public notice inviting all those claiming to be aggrieved. Confidentiality be ensured."

The country's apex court further observed that although a few specific instances might warrant further evaluation, a blanket direction based on a mere compilation of cases was not justified.

The court then asked the rights commission to issue a public notice inviting all those claiming to be aggrieved and clarified that the ASHRC will be at liberty to initiate further investigations into the allegations.

It said the Assam Government will have to cooperate fully and to remove any institutional barriers in the enquiry process.

Arif Jwaddar, by profession a lawyer moved a PIL claiming that over 80 such staged gunfights had taken place in the state since May 2021, Himanta Biswa Sarma took over as the Assam chief minister

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