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Grad. student facing challenges across borders

False statements in hometown paper are among Ganguly's numerous problems

By Craig Eisenberger

Published: Friday, August 20, 2004

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The Times of India allegedly made false statements about University student and teaching assistant Adrish Ganguly in its article "'Deserter' son spoils father's case for bail" Aug. 7.

The Times of India reported that Ganguly was married to Tanupriya Guha Roy Dec. 8, 2003 for the purpose of obtaining his U.S. visa. The marriage occurred two years after Ganguly obtained a U.S. visa in Calcutta Feb. 23, 2001, which will not expire until sometime in 2005.

Executive Director for International Students and Scholars Services Kathleen Trayte wrote a letter to the editor of The Times of India, stating that the article "contains many inaccuracies" and the comment about the reason for the marriage "is completely and utterly without basis."

The article also mentions charges filed against Ganguly and his parents by his wife, under Section 498A and 406 of the Indian Penal Code.

According to section 406, "whoever commits criminal breach of trust shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term, which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both."

Section 498A states that "whoever, being the husband or the relative of the husband of a woman, subjects such woman to cruelty shall be punished with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine."

Cruelty in such a case is defined as "(a) any wilful conduct which is of such a nature as is likely to drive the woman to commit suicide or to cause grave injury or danger to life, limb or health (whether mental or physical) of the woman; or (b) harassment of the woman where such harassment is with a view to coercing her or any person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any property or valuable security or is on account of failure by her or any person related to her to meet such demand."

Ganguly told The Triangle that Tanupriya's statements and charges were false. He claimed that she had an ulterior motive for the marriage, saying she wanted him to bring her and her family over to America.

"I told her that I could bring her over but not her parents. If I was going to bring anyone's parents over, it would be my own," Ganguly said.

He added that Tanupriya wanted him to help her parents get jobs in America, an action that is illegal given immigration laws. It would also cause Ganguly to lose his student visa status.

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"They kept calling me, telling me I was going to fail and that I wouldn't be able to get the 'P' in my Ph.D.," Ganguly said.

Currently, Ganguly is a graduate student earning a degree in materials engineering in the College of Engineering. He is also a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering with his advisor, Michel Barsoum.

Tanupriya said she submitted two letters to Barsoum about Ganguly saying that "what he is doing can harm his Ph.D." and he "misguided me, and this is necessary to come in front of everybody at Drexel." She then told her side of the story.

"On Jan. 2, he left, taking all my cash, gold, everything." She said that he "fled" to the United States. Ganguly did return to America shortly after the marriage celebrations; however, he said that he did not take anything from her since he had no need of money.

Tanupriya submitted a personal ad to The Triangle regarding her husband. The Classifieds Manager stated that the ad could not run because there was no way to support the claims made, and it could be considered libel.

To look for help in the situation, Ganguly sent a message to the Chief Minister of West Bengal explaining his situation. In it he wrote, "I realized that the objective of the entire family of my bride was not to tie the knot between their daughter and me but to immigrate here in USA as my dependent, not to mention about the monetary support they asked me for, to continue the study of their daughter at Drexel University (\$35,000/year) as a graduate student here."

When asked about Ganguly's statement saying she was using him to come to America, Tanupriya said that Ganguly is a criminal who wants to save himself and will lie to everybody.

"I don't think that I am telling a lie in any sense. A criminal will tell a lie to save himself because his Ph.D. is in front of him."

She said that Ganguly told her he would call her regularly, but he never did. When trying to contact him, she said he would disconnect her, saying he did not wish to talk.

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"He is a fraud. He is telling lies to all the people at Drexel University," Tanupriya said. "I am not lying at all."

"The court has issued an order, as well as an arrest warrant, against him," Tanupriya said. The Triangle has not been able to independently confirm this.

Tanupriya added that her family's lawyer said Ganguly's father, Dilip Ganguly, stated that Adrish married her to get his visa early.

Ganguly forwarded the message to Barsoum, who offered his assistance, calling the entire situation a nightmare.

The Triangle contacted Trayte and asked for her opinion of the situation.

"I feel sorry for him," Trayte said. "He feels that he is going to be kicked out of the University, but I assured him that isn't going to happen."

Trayte advises all international students with problems to come to the Office of International Students and Scholars Services.

"We have resources at hand that [students] may not know about," she said. "That is why we are here, to assist them in situations like this."

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'Deserter' son spoils father's case for bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [SATURDAY, AUGUST 07, 2004 01:56:03 AM]

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KOLKATA: An elderly couple has been taken to court for allegedly torturing their daughter-in-law. Their son's departure for the West further ruined their case.

Tanupriya Guha Roy married Adrish Ganguly through a matrimonial site, but discovered later that her husband only wanted a US visa. The two got married on December 8, 2003, and Adrish left for the US on January 1, 2004. To Tanupriya's shock, her in-laws told her to return to her parents' home, soon after they saw Adrish off at the airport.

Adrish reportedly got married when he came to know that single men find it difficult to get US visas. So he began searching for a suitable match through a matrimonial site. Tanupriya's family responded and allegedly paid Rs 1 lakh in cash apart from jewellery and other items worth Rs 5 lakh to the Gangulys.

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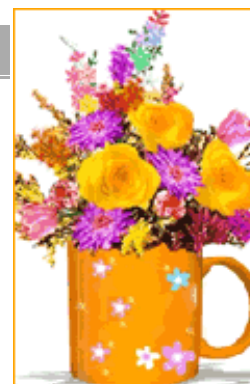
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'Deserter' son spoils father's case for bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK [SATURDAY, AUGUST 07, 2004 01:56:03 AM]

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However, her trouble began soon after the marriage. She also came to know that Adrish would leave for the US in a few days and that he would leave her behind.

Taking things in her stride, Tanupriya went to the airport with her in-laws on January 1 to bid Adrish goodbye. The moment the flight took off, she was asked by her in-laws to return to her parents' home. With no other option, the girl did as she was told.

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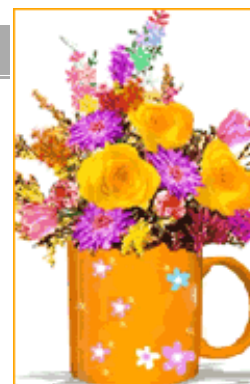
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On June 12, Tanupriya decided to return to her inlaws' place but was turned away. Her parents tried to sort out the matter with the Ganguly's but to no avail. Finally, on June 24, Tanupriya lodged a complaint with Jadavpur police station.

Tanupriya alleged that her in-laws torturing her soon after her marriage, even before Adrish left for the US. Initially, she thought things would improve but nothing happened.

Based on her complaints, the police charged her in-laws under Section 498A. On Friday, Tanushree's inlaws prayed for anticipatory bail at Calcutta High Court.

Additional public prosecutor Asimes Ganguly submitted that Adrish had got married simply to obtain a visa. After hearing this, Justice N. A. Chowdhury and Justice A. K. Bhattacharya denied anticipatory bail to Tanushree's father-in-law Dilip Ganguly. Her mother-in-law was, however, allowed bail due to ill health.

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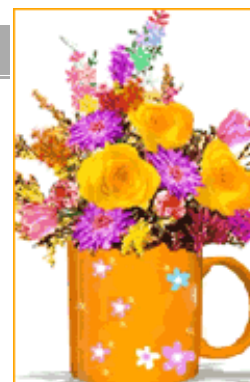
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