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SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court Demands Concrete Proof

Vague Allegations Insufficient to Prove Intent in Modesty Case

Sheikh Rayees • January 4, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

The Supreme Court recently emphasized that for a charge under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)—pertaining to assault or criminal force with the intent to outrage a woman's modesty—clear evidence of intent (mens rea) is essential. Merely presenting vague or unsupported claims is insufficient to sustain such accusations. A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and C.T. Ravikumar underscored that criminal force must not only be evident but also...

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