



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 13.03.2015

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C.T.SELVAM

Crl.O.P.(MD)No.4129 of 2015

S.Raja Meerah

... Petitioner

Vs.

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Sivagangai District.

2. The Inspector of Police,
The District Crime Branch,
Kanniyakumari District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
District Crime Branch,
Sivagangai District.

4. The Inspector of Police,
Kottakodu Police Station,
Kanniyakumari District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to direct the respondents not to harass the petitioner and his family members under the guise of enquiry.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Paul Selvam

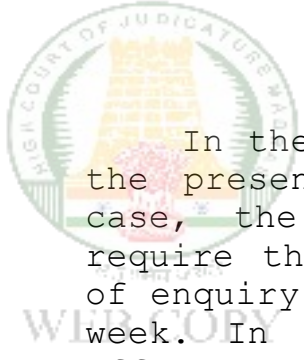
For Respondents : Mr.K.Anbarasan,
Government Advocate (Crl.side)

O R D E R

This Criminal Original Petition is filled for a direction to the respondents not to harass the petitioner and his family members under the guise of enquiry.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.side).

3. The petitioner allege harassment at the hands of the respondent police. Given the guidelines of the Apex Court in **Lalita Kumari vs. Government of U.P.** and others reported in **2013 (4) Crimes 243 (SC)** and in **Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar and Another** reported in **(2014) 3 MLJ (Crl) (SC)**, this petition may be disposed of on the following lines:



In the normal course, the respondent police shall not require the presence of the petitioner before them. In an exceptional case, the respondent police may upon receipt of complaints, require the person/accused to appear before them for the purpose of enquiry. Such enquiry shall not extend beyond the period of one week. In the event of respondent police registering cases for offences punishable with imprisonment up to 7 years, both respondent police as well as the concerned jurisdictional Magistrate before whom accused persons are produced for the purpose of remand strictly shall follow the dictate of Supreme Court in **Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar and Another** reported in **(2014) 3 MLJ (Crl) (SC)**, paragraph Nos.9, 14 and 15 whereof state as follows:

"9. From a plain reading of the aforesaid provision, it is evident that a person accused of offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years or which may extend to seven years with or without fine, cannot be arrested by the police officer only on its satisfaction that such person had committed the offence punishable as aforesaid. Police officer before arrest, in such cases has to be further satisfied that such arrest is necessary to prevent such person from committing any further offence; or for proper investigation of the case; or to prevent the accused from causing the evidence of the offence to disappear; or tampering with such evidence in any manner; or to prevent such person from making any inducement, threat or promise to a witness so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or the police officer; or unless such accused person is arrested, his presence in the court whenever required cannot be ensured. These are the conclusions, which one may reach based on facts. Law mandates the police officer to state the facts and record the reasons in writing which led him to come to a conclusion covered by any of the provisions aforesaid, while making such arrest. Law further requires the police officers to record the reasons in writing for not making the arrest. In pith and core, the police office before arrest must put a question to himself, why arrest? Is it really required? What purpose it will serve? What object it will achieve? It is only after these questions are addressed and one or the other conditions as enumerated above is satisfied, the power of arrest needs to be exercised. In fine, before arrest first the police officers should have reason to believe on the basis of information and material that the accused has committed the offence. Apart from this, the police officer has to be satisfied further that the arrest is necessary for one or the more purposes envisaged by sub-clauses (a) to (e) of clause (1) of Section 41 of Cr.P.C.



14. Our endeavour in this judgment is to ensure that police officers do not arrest accused unnecessarily and Magistrate do not authorize detention casually and mechanically. In order to ensure what we have observed above, we give the following direction:

. (1)

All the State Governments to instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498-A of the IPC is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters laid down above flowing from Section 41, Cr.PC;

. (2)

All police officers be provided with a check list containing specified sub-clauses under Section 41(1) (b) (ii);

. (3)

The police officer shall forward the check list duly filed and furnish the reasons and materials which necessitated the arrest, while forwarding/producing the accused before the Magistrate for further detention;

. (4)

The Magistrate while authorising detention of the accused shall peruse the report furnished by the police officer in terms aforesaid and only after recording its satisfaction, the Magistrate will authorise detention;

. (5)

The decision not to arrest an accused, be forwarded to the Magistrate within two weeks from the date of the institution of the case with a copy to the Magistrate which may be extended by the Superintendent of police of the district for the reasons to be recorded in writing;

. (6)

Notice of appearance in terms of Section 41A of Cr.PC be served on the accused within two weeks from the date of institution of the case, which may be extended by the Superintendent of Police of the District for the reasons to be recorded in writing;



• (7)

Failure to comply with the directions aforesaid shall apart from rendering the police officers concerned liable for departmental action, they shall also be liable to be punished for contempt of court to be instituted before High Court having territorial jurisdiction.

• (8)

Authorising detention without recording reasons as aforesaid by the judicial Magistrate concerned shall be liable for departmental action by the appropriate High Court.

15. We hasten to add that the directions aforesaid shall not only apply to the cases under Section 498-A of the I.P.C. or Section 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, the case in hand, but also such cases where offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years or which may extend to seven years; whether with or without fine.

This Criminal Original Petition is ordered accordingly.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(Writs)

/True Copy/

Sub-Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Superintendent of Police, Sivagangai District.
2. The Inspector of Police, The District Crime Branch, Kanniyakumari District.
3. The Inspector of Police, District Crime Branch, Sivagangai District.
4. The Inspector of Police, Kottakodu Police Station, Kanniyakumari District.
5. The Additional Public Prosecutor, Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

+1cc to Mr.P.Paul Selvam, Advocate, in SR. No.12245.

Crl.O.P. (MD) No.4129 of 2015
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