

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE T.SUNIL CHOWDARY

CRIMINAL PETITION No.302 of 2010

ORDER:

This petition is filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the proceedings against the petitioners/accused Nos.3, 4, 6, 7, 5 and 8 in Crime No.72 of 2009 on the file of the Station House Officer, RIMS Police Station, Kadapa District, registered for the offences under Sections 498-A and 420 I.P.C. and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned Public Prosecutor representing the State.

3. A perusal of the record reveals that the petitioners are accused Nos.3, 4, 6, 7, 5 and 8 and the second respondent is the *de facto* complainant in Crime No.72 of 2009.

4. As per the allegations made in the complaint, the petitioners along with other accused spread rumors that the second respondent had illicit intimacy with several people. It is further alleged that the petitioners informed the same to the press and electronic media.

5. Whether the petitioners have committed the alleged offences or not will come to light during the course of investigation. While exercising the inherent power under Section 482 Cr.P.C., the Court has to take into consideration the allegations made in the complaint only. The Court is not justified in embarking upon an enquiry as to probability, reliability or genuineness of the allegations made in the complaint at the initial stage of investigation. The material placed before the Court is *prima facie* sufficient to investigate into the matter in order to ascertain the truthfulness or otherwise of the allegations made in the complaint.

6. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case and also the principle enunciated in **R.P.Kapoor v. State of Punjab**^[1],

State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal^[2], V.Y. Jose v. State of Gurajat^[3]

and Teeja Devi v. State of Rajasthan^[4]. I am of the considered view that it is not a fit case to quash the criminal proceedings at the threshold.

7. The learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the concerned Station House Officer may be directed not to arrest the petitioners till completion of the investigation.

8. A perusal of the record reveals that this Court granted interim stay on 21.01.2010.

9. Taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the case and also the interim order of this Court dated 21.01.2010, the Station House Officer, RIMS Police Station, Kadapa District, is hereby directed not to arrest the petitioners/accused Nos.3, 4, 6, 7, 5 and 8 in Crime No.72 of 2009 till completion of the investigation.

10. With the above direction, the Criminal Petition is dismissed.

11. Consequently, Miscellaneous Petitions, if any, pending in this Criminal Petition shall stand closed.

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T.SUNIL CHOWDARY, J

Date: 14.03.2016

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^[1] AIR 1960 SC 866

^[2] AIR 1992 SC 604

^[3] (2009) 3 SCC 78

^[4] 2015 (1) ACR 564 (SC)