

THE HON'BLE SRI JUSTICE T.SUNIL CHOWDARY

CRIMINAL PETITION NO.6269 OF 2017

ORDER:

Petitioners, who are A6 to A8 in Cr.No.62 of 2017 on the file of Station House Officer, Rentachintala Police Station, Guntur District, registered for the offences punishable under Sections 147, 148, 302, 120 (B) and 213 r/w 149 IPC, filed this petition under Sections 437 and 439 Cr.P.C. seeking regular bail.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners strenuously submitted that the petitioners have nothing to do with the murder of Mekapothula Venkateswara Reddy and Padmavathi. She further submitted that the petitioners provided shelter to A2 without knowing the murder of Mekapothula Venkateswara Reddy and Padmavathi; therefore, it is a fit case to allow the petition.

3. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the State of Andhra Pradesh submitted that the petitioners provided shelter to A2 knowing fully well that he involved in a double murder case. He further submitted that if the petitioners are released on bail, there is every possibility of tampering with the prosecution witnesses.

4. A perusal of the record reveals that basing on the complaint lodged by S.Saraswathi, the Station House Officer of Rentachintala P.S. registered a case in Cr.No.62 of 2017 for the above offences. As per the allegations made in the complaint, A1 to A5 in pursuance of the common intention, killed Mekapothula Venkateswara Reddy and Padmavathi. As per the remand report, petitioners herein provided shelter to A2.

5. A perusal of the record reveals that A6 and A7 were arrested on 28-06-2017 and A8 was arrested on 04-07-2017 and remanded to judicial custody. A perusal of the record *prima facie* reveals that A1 to A5 killed Mekapothula Venkateswara Reddy and Padmavathi due to property disputes. A perusal of the record further reveals that the petitioners herein gave shelter to A2 by accepting an amount of Rs.10,000/- and also share in the property of the deceased. In this case, investigation is still in progress. A perusal of the record reveals that A4 and A5 are absconding. At this stage, if the petitioners are released on bail, the possibility of tampering with the prosecution witnesses cannot be ruled out. Taking into consideration the gravity of the offences alleged to have been committed by the petitioners, this Court is of the considered view that it is not a fit case to grant bail to the petitioners at this stage.

6. Accordingly, the Criminal Petition is dismissed. Miscellaneous petitions, if any pending, in this Petition shall stand closed.

T.SUNIL CHOWDARY, J

DATED: 31-07-2017.
Hsd