

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CRM-M-1428-2017
Date of Decision: 18.01.2017**

Shashi Bala and another

..... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HONBLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Birkramjit Singh Randhawa, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA J. (ORAL)

Ld. Counsel for the petitioners seeks protection of life and liberty of the petitioners by contending that both of them having attained the age of majority, have married each other against the wishes of their respective family members i.e. respondent Nos. 4 to 6, and so seek appropriate protection from the police authorities. They submitted a representation (Annexure P-5) in this regard to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ropar on 16.01.2017, but are still apprehensive about their security in view of the apparent inaction and alleged clout of their family members-private respondents.

2. Both of them do appear to have crossed the age of majority as seen from the copies of documents filed and have married, each other in support of which, photographs and Marriage Certificate issued by "Gurdwara Shri Dashmesh Pita Patshahi Dasvi (Regd.)" (Annexures P-3 & P-4) have been placed on record.

3. For the aforesaid reasons, this appears to be a fit case for this Court to invoke the inherent powers under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C and in view of the mandate contained in Article 21 of the Constitution of India to protect the citizen's right to life and liberty.

4. Thus the Senior Superintendent of Police, Ropar is directed to consider the representation dated 16.01.2017 (Annexure P-5) and take appropriate steps to ensure that no harm is caused to the life and liberty of the petitioners.

5. It is nevertheless clarified that this order is issued only on the premise that the petitioners have crossed the age of majority as seen from the documents placed on record being their Aadhar Cards. This would not *ipso facto* amount to granting any seal of approval on the legality of their marriage which essentially would come in the domain of the concerned Matrimonial Courts. Further, they would not be entitled for any protection against their arrest or continuance of any criminal proceedings, if otherwise found to be involved in commission of any cognizable offence(s). The petition is disposed of with the above direction.

(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE

18.01.2017

Dinesh

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes No

Whether Reportable : Yes No