

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 22.03.2018

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH
Crl.O.P.No.9066 of 2018

M/s.Vinny Foods,
Rep.by its proprietor, Mr.Jay Milal Shah,
No.16/1, 2nd Floor,
Wallace Garden II street,
Thousand lights,
Chennai - 600 006.

.. Petitioner

Versus

1.The Joint Commissioner of Police,
East Zone, Pantheon Road,
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

2.The Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Triplicane, Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600 007.

3.The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
Greams Road, Nungabakkam,
Chennai - 600 006.

.. Respondents

Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C.
praying to direct the respondents not to harass the petitioner
in running of a Hookha bar in the restaurant business under the
name and style of M/s.Robustaa Kitchen with a separate smoking
zone therein.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Sri Krishna Bhagavat

For Respondents : Mr.C.Raghavan
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)

ORDER

It is the grievance of the petitioner that the respondents
police have been harassing him under the guise of an
enquiry/investigation and hence, has invoked the inherent powers
of this Court under Section 482 of Cr.P.C.

2.An enquiry into a non cognizable offence or a cognizable
offence is the unfettered powers of the Investigation Officers
so long as the power to investigate/enquire into these offences
are legitimately exercised within the frame work of Chapter XII
of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Though the Code of Criminal

Procedure empowers the Magistrate to be a guardian in all the stages of the police investigation, there is no power envisaging him to interfere with the actual investigation or the mode of investigation. It is in this background that numerous petitions complaining of harassment are being reported and filed before this Court seeking for directions to refrain the police officials from harassing the persons named in a complaint.

3.This Court, exercising its power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code normally would not interfere with the investigation conducted by a police officer. Nevertheless, it would also not turn a blind eye to instances of harassment by the police under the guise of investigation is brought to its notice.

4.In the present case in hand, the petitioner has complained of harassment by the police based on a complaint and seeks for this Court's intervention by way of a direction. The term 'harassment' by itself has a very wide meaning and hence, what could be harassment to the petitioner may not be the same to the police officer.

5.In order to circumvent such situations, the following guidelines are issued:

a) While summoning any persons named in the complaint or any witness to the incident complained of, the police officer shall summon such persons through a written summon under Section 160 Cr.P.C., specifying a particular date and time for appearing before them for such an enquiry/investigation.

b)The minutes of the enquiry shall be recorded in the general diary/station diary/daily diary of the police station.

c)The police officer shall refrain himself or herself from harassing persons called upon for enquiry/investigation.

d)The guidelines stipulated for preliminary enquiry or registration of FIR by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Lalita Kumari Vs. Government of Uttar Pradesh and others [2014 (2) SCC (1)] shall be strictly adhered to.

6. With the above observations and direction, the Criminal Original Petition stands allowed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-IX)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

klt

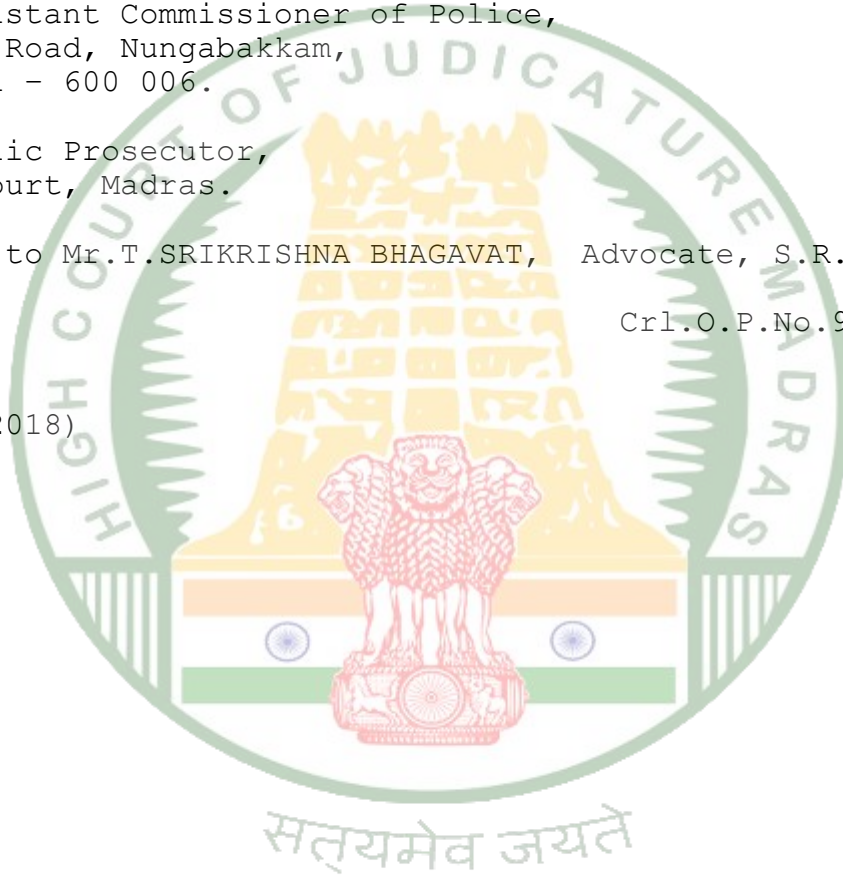
To

- 1.The Joint Commissioner of Police,
East Zone, Pantheon Road,
Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
- 2.The Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Triplicane, Chintadripet,
Chennai - 600 007.
- 3.The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
Greams Road, Nungabakkam,
Chennai - 600 006.
- 4.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

+1cc to Mr.T.SRIKRISHNA BHAGAVAT, Advocate, S.R.No. 21702

Crl.O.P.No.9066 of 2018

KAN(CO)
TR(27/03/2018)



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