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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(CRL) 1300/2018**

SHILPI SINGH & ANR. Petitioners

Through: Mr. Mitthan Lal, Advocate.

Versus

THE STATE & ANR. Respondents

Through: Mr. Rahul Mehra, Standing Counsel
for State with Mr. Jamal Akhtar,
Advocate SI Ompal Singh, P.S.
Khajuri Khas

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAJMI WAZIRI

ORDER

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14.08.2018

The petitioners are legal adults. They have filed photocopies of their Cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India as proof of their age, which shows that both of them had attained the age of majority as of the date of contracting of marriage on 29.03.2018. They claim to have married each other of their free volition. Their marriage apparently does not have the concurrence or blessings of their relatives, who are arrayed as respondents No. 4 to 6. They apprehend threat to their life, limb and liberty from the said respondents. On 01.05.2018, the State was directed to provide them protection in terms of the threat assessed to their persons.

Mr. Rahul Mehra, the learned Standing Counsel for the State submits that petitioners were not found at the address mentioned in the writ petition. It is understandable that for young people like the petitioners, who marry each other of their own free volition, without the blessings of their parents, it

cannot be ruled out that out of fear to their life and limb, they ordinarily lead a peripatetic life, till such time that appropriate protection is provided to them, either by the police directly or by way of a judicial intervention.

In the circumstances, the petitioners shall provide their latest address to the police through Mr. Rahul Mehra, in the course of the day. The said address shall not be disclosed by the police to any person. The threat apropos the petitioners shall be assessed and due protection shall be accorded to them by the Station House Officer (SHO) of the area of their residence in Delhi. They will be interacted with and will be provided three telephone numbers of police officers including one of the lady police officer. These numbers shall be kept operational at all times so that any exigency can be intimated on either of the numbers by the petitioners. The Court is assured by the learned counsel for the State that any message received on the said numbers or on any other telephone number of the police either by way of a telephone call or SMS shall be immediately responded to. Additionally, the Beat Constable/Division Staff of the area shall regularly visit the residence of the petitioners on a daily basis and report the same in the *Roznamcha*. The safety and security of the petitioners shall be assessed by the SHO on a weekly basis with due endorsement of the same in the *Roznamcha*. The Beat Constable shall record entries in his Beat Book. The address of the petitioners shall not be disclosed to anybody by the police

The learned counsel for the State submits that the SHO concerned shall duly sensitize respondents No. 4 to 6 about the petitioners' right to choose a life partner; to marry as per their free volition; to live a life according to their choice and nobody has a right to interfere in the same. He also assures the Court that the police officer present in the Court will

interact with the petitioners in the Court premises itself immediately after this case gets over; and he and the SHO concerned shall assure them of their safety.

Should the petitioners shift their address to the jurisdiction of any other Police Station in Delhi, the same protection shall be granted to them by the SHO of the subsequent Police Station as well. No further orders are required.

The petition stands disposed-off in terms of the above.

A copy of this order be given *dasti* to the learned counsel for the parties under signature of the Court Master.

NAJMI WAZIRI, J.

AUGUST 14, 2018

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