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IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

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W.P.(CRL) 2294/2018 & Crl. M.A. Nos. 29128-29/2018

SMT. SHIVANI & ANR.

..... Petitioners

Through: Mr. D. K. Santoshi and Mr. Rahul
Kumar Singh, Advocates.

Versus

THE STATE OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Ms. Nandita Rao for Ms. Kamna
Vohra, Additional Standing Counsel
with SI Vijay Pal and ASI Suresh
Kumar, P.S. Sector 23, Dwarka.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAJMI WAZIRI

ORDER

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02.08.2018

The petitioners claim to be the legal adults and have married each other of their free volition. They apprehend grave threat to their life, limb and liberty from respondents No. 3 to 7, who are their relatives and are inimical to them because the marriage is not with their consent. They seek protection from police from anything untoward happening to them at the hands of the said respondents or at their behest.

The learned Additional Standing Counsel for the State submits that an FIR was lodged by the father of petitioner No.1 stating that his minor daughter had been kidnapped. The police is in the process of ascertaining her correct age. Be that as it may, the police will provide them adequate protection in terms of the threat, as may be assessed by the police. The learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the address of the petitioners

will be furnished to Ms. Rao, the learned Additional Standing Counsel for the State in the course of the day. The same shall not be disclosed to anybody by the police.

In the circumstances, the petitioners shall be provided due protection 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 learned counsel for the State submits that the SHO concerned shall duly sensitize respondents No. 3 to 7 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.

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.

NAJMI WAZIRI, J.

AUGUST 02, 2018

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