



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 19.11.2019

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Crl.O.P.(MD)No.11311 of 2019

WEB COPY

1.Daniel Raja Sekaran
2.John Seshan Selvaraj

... Petitioners

-Vs-

1.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City.

2.The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
Thallakulam Range, Madurai City.

3.The Inspector of Police (L&O),
Koodal Pudhur Police Station,
Madurai City.

4.B.Henry Julius
5.K.Sophia

... Respondents

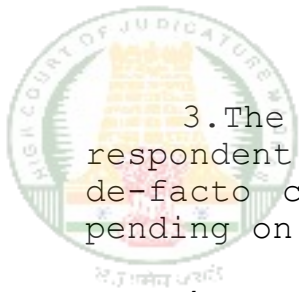
Prayer: Criminal Original petition filed under Section 482 of Code of Criminal Procedure, to direct the respondents 1 to 3 not to interfere in the civil dispute as colorized the SC,ST Caste wise complaint against the petitioners in O.S.No.99 of 2019, on the file of the District Munsif, Madurai Taluk Court, on the instigation of the 4th, 5th respondents.

For Petitioners	: Mr.R.Udhayakumar
For R1 to R3	: Mr.R.Anandharaj Additional Public Prosecutor
For R4	: Mr.B.Chandramohan

O R D E R

This Criminal Original petition has been filed to direct the respondents 1 to 3 not to interfere the civil dispute as colorized the SC,ST Caste wise complaint against the petitioners in O.S.No.99 of 2019, on the file of the District Munsif, Madurai Taluk Court, on the instigation of the respondents 4 and 5.

2.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners would submit that the respondent police harassed the petitioners under the guise of enquiry.



3.The learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent police would submit that on the complaint given by the de-facto complainant against the petitioners, petition enquiry is pending on the file of the respondent police.

4.Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioners and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent police.

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

6.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.

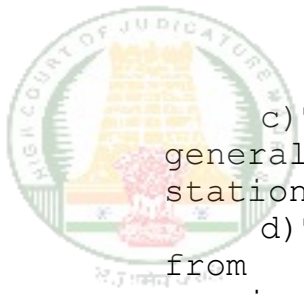
7.This Court, exercising its power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code normally would not interfere with the investigation conducted by a police officer. Nevertheless, it would also not turn a blind eye to instances of harassment by the police under the guise of investigation is brought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

8.In the present case in hand, the petitioners have complained of harassment by the police based on a complaint and seek 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 petitioners may not be the same to the police officer.

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

a)While summoning any person named in the complaint or any witness to the incident complained of, the police officer shall summon such person 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 respondent police is directed to serve summons mentioning the CSR number, date of complaint and the name of the complainant.



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

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

e)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.

10.With the above observations and direction, the Criminal Original Petition stands disposed of.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-III)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

sjj

To

1.The Commissioner of Police,
Office of the Commissioner of Police,
Madurai City.

2.The Assistant Commissioner of Police,
Thallakulam Range, Madurai City.

3.The Inspector of Police (L&O),
Koodal Pudhur Police Station,
Madurai City.

4.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to Mr.B.CHANDRASEKARAN, Advocate (SR-100291[F] dated
21/11/2019)

Crl.O.P. (MD)No.11311 of 2019
19.11.2019

MK (06.12.2019) 3P 6C