



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14.10.2019

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

CRL.O.P(MD) No.14299 of 2019

and Crl.M.P.(MD) No.8644 of 2019

WEB COPY

Balasubramaniam

... Petitioner/Sole Accused

Vs.

State through

The Inspector of Police,

Mela Palayam Police Station,

Tirunelveli.

Crime No. 485 of 2017

... Respondent/Complainant

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C, to call for the records pertaining to S.T.C. No.251 of 2018 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.V, Tirunelveli and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.P.Subbiah

For Respondent : Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi

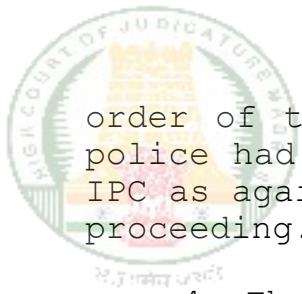
Government Advocate(Crl.Side)

O R D E R

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to quash the proceedings in S.T.C. No.251 of 2018 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.V, Tirunelveli, as against the petitioner.

2. The case of the prosecution is that the the petitioner had installed Vinayagar Idol in a flammable thatched shed without CCTV camera instead of Tin sheet shed with CCTV camera in violation of the conditions imposed for installing Vinayagar Idols and he conducted Vinayagar procession till 11.30 p.m., and thereby violated the orders of the officials. On the basis of the above said allegations, the respondent police registered the complaint and filed a charge sheet against the petitioner for the offences under Sections 143, 188 and 283 of IPC in Crime No.485 of 2017 and the same was taken cognizance by the learned Judicial Magistrate No.V, Tirunelveli in STC No.251 of 2018. The said criminal proceedings is under challenge in this Criminal Original Petition.

3. According to the petitioner, the petitioner is innocent. According to Section 195(1)(a) of Cr.P.C., no Court can take cognizance of an offence under Section 188 of IPC, unless the public servant has written order from the authority. Further he submitted that the petitioner or any other members had never disturbed public, public tranquility and peace . The petitioner unaware about the



order of the officials. On precautionary measures, the respondent police had registered this case, under Section 143, 188 and 283 of IPC as against the petitioner. Therefore, he sought for quashing the proceeding.

4. The learned Government Advocate(Crl.Side) submitted that the petitioner has attempted petitioner had installed Vinayagar Idol in a flammable thatched shed without CCTV camera instead of Tin sheet shed with CCTV camera in violation of the conditions imposed for installing Vinayagar Idols and he conducted Vinayagar procession till 11.30 p.m., and thereby violated the orders of the officials and there are specific allegations as against the petitioner to proceed with the trial. Further, he would submit that Section 188 of IPC is a cognizable offence and therefore it is the duty of the police to register a case. Though there is a bar under Section 195 (a) (i) of Cr.P.C. to take cognizance for the offence under Section 188 of IPC, it does not mean that the police cannot register FIR and investigate the case. Therefore, he vehemently opposed the quash petition and prayed for dismissal of the same.

5. Perused the material documents available on record.

6. On perusal of the charge, it is seen that the petitioner had violated the orders of the officials. Therefore the respondent police levelled the charges under Sections 143, 188 and 283 of I.P.C. as against the petitioner. Except the official witnesses, no one has spoken about the occurrence and no one was examined to substantiate the charges against the petitioner. It is also seen from the charge itself that the charges are very simple in nature and trivial. Section 188 reads as follows:

"188. Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant – Whoever, knowing that, by an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order, he is directed to abstain from a certain act, or to take certain order with certain property in his possession or under his management, disobeys such direction, shall, if such disobedience causes or tends to cause obstruction, annoyance or injury, or risk of obstruction, annoyance or injury, to any person lawfully employed, be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both; and if such disobedience causes or tends to cause danger to human life, health or safety, or causes or tends to cause a riot or affray, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.



7. The only question for consideration is that whether the registration of case under Sections 143, 188 and 283 of IPC, registered by the respondent is permissible under law or not? In this regard it is relevant to extract Section 195(1)(a) of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 :-

"195. Prosecution for contempt of lawful authority of public servants, for offences against public justice and for offences relating to documents given in evidence. (1) No Courts shall take cognizance-

(a) (i) of any offence punishable under sections 172 to 188 (both inclusive) of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), or

(ii) of any abetment of, attempt to commit, such offence, or

(iii) of any criminal conspiracy to commit, such offence, except on the complaint in writing of the public servant concerned or of some other public servant to whom he is administratively subordinate;..."

Therefore, it is very clear that for taking cognizance of the offences under Section 188 of IPC, the public servant should lodge a complaint in writing and other than that no Court has power to take cognizance.

8. In the case on hand, the First Information Report has been registered by the respondent police for the offences under Sections 143, 188 and 283 of IPC. He is not a competent person to register FIR for the offences under Section 188 of IPC. As such, the First Information Report or final report is liable to be quashed for the offences under Section 188 of IPC. Further, the complaint does not even state as to how the petitioners have attempted to stage demonstration in prohibited area and does not satisfy the requirements of Section 143 of IPC. Therefore, the final report cannot be sustained and it is liable to be quashed.

9. Accordingly, the proceedings in S.T.C. No.251 of 2018 in Crime No.485 of 2017, is quashed and the Criminal Original Petition is allowed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar (CS)



To

1. The Inspector of Police,
Mela Palayam Police Station,
Tirunelveli.

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

+1 CC to Mr.P. SUBBIAH, Advocate (SR-91841[F] dated 15/10/2019)

CRL.O.P(MD) No.14299 of 2019
14.10.2019

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