



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 26.11.2019

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE **G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN**

Crl.O.P. (MD).No.17352 of 2019

A.Saravanan

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Superintendent of Police,
O/o. Superintendent of Police,
Thanjavur District.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Thanjavur East Police Station,
Thanjavur District.

.. Respondents

PRAYER: This Criminal Original Petition has been filed under Section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code, to direct the second respondent not to interfere in any way with the Hotel business run by the petitioner in the name of "Marutham Mess" at Chathiram Deluxe Building, Gandhiji Road, Thanjavur.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.Ramesh

For Respondents:Mr.K.Suyambulinga Bharathi

Government Advocate (Criminal Side)

O R D E R

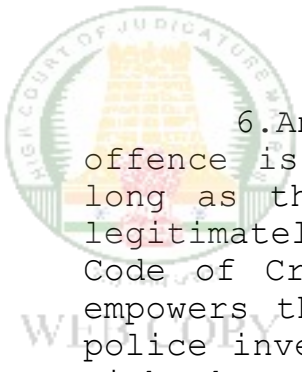
This Criminal Original Petition has been filed seeking direction to direct the second respondent not to interfere in any way with the Hotel business run by the petitioner in the name of "Marutham Mess" at Chathiram Deluxe Building, Gandhiji Road, Thanjavur.

2.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that on instigation given by one A.R.Devadass, the respondent police harassed the petitioner.

3.The learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) appearing for the respondent police would submit that on the complaint given by one A.R.Devadass, who is the owner of the property, petition enquiry is pending before the second respondent police.

4.Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Criminal Side) for the respondent police.

5.It is the grievance of the petitioner that the respondent 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.



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 petitioner has 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 petitioner 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 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.

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

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (AS)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar (CS)



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To

- 1.The Superintendent of Police,
O/o. Superintendent of Police,
Thanjavur District.
- 2.The Inspector of Police,
Thanjavur East Police Station,
Thanjavur District.
- 3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to M/s.C. RAMESH, Advocate (SR-101656[F] dated 27/11/2019)

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26.11.2019

SMA/16/12/19/3P/5C