

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 21.07.2020

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

CRL.O.P.No.10788 of 2020

P.Thirupathi

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The Deputy Commissioner of Police,
City Commissioner Office,
Sirupuluvapatti, Tiruppur.

2. The Sub Inspector of Police,
Tirumuruganpoondi Police Station,
Tiruppur Town, Tiruppur District.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C,
praying to direct the respondent not to harass the petitioner and his family
members in any manner in accordance with law.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.P.Yuaraj

For Respondents : Mr.S.Karthikeyan,
Additional Public Prosecutor.

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to direct the respondents not to harass the petitioner and his family members in any manner in accordance with law.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the respondents police harassed the petitioner under the guise of enquiry.

3. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that a case in Crime No.1013 of 2018 registered for the offence under Sections, 279 and 308 of IPC, it is a case of hit and run. The car bearing Registration No.TN-38-BL-6302 has been specifically mentioned in the complaint. The car originally owned by the petitioner. Therefore, the respondents requires to investigate the matter with the petitioner herein.

4. Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioner and learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents police.

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

21.07.2020

Internet:Yes
Index:Yes/no
Speaking/Non speaking order

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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.

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To

1. The Deputy Commissioner of Police,
City Commissioner Office,
Sirupuluvapatti, Tiruppur.
2. The Sub Inspector of Police,
Tirumuruganpoondi Police Station,
Tiruppur Town, Tiruppur District.
3. The Additional Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.



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