



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 07.02.2020

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE **MR. JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA**

CRL.O.P (MD) No.2106 of 2020

1.Mathikannan

2.Ramuthai

.. Petitioners/Respondents

Vs

1.M.Manokaran

.. 1st Respondent/Petitioner

2.The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Uthamapalayam,
Theni District.

.. 2nd Respondent

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C, praying to direct the second respondent police not to harass the petitioners in the name of enquiry in C.No.3145/GDP/SP-TNI/19 pending on the file of the 2nd respondent police.

For Petitioners : Mr.K.C.Ramalingam

For Respondent No.2 : Mr.S.Chandrasekar
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

This petition has been filed seeking direction to direct the second respondent police not to harass the petitioners on the complaint of the first respondent in the name of enquiry in C.No.3145/GDP/SP-TNI/19 pending on the file of the second respondent police.

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

3. When the matter is taken up for hearing today, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the complaint given by the first respondent/father-in-law of the first petitioner, namely, Manokaran, enquiry has been initiated in C.No.3145/GDP/SP-TNI/19.

4.Heard the learned Counsel appearing for the petitioners and learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the State.

5. The learned Counsel appearing for the petitioners submit the grievance of the petitioners that the respondent



police has 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 on 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 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 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.

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Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-III)

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar (CS)

PJL

To

1.The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Uthamapalayam,
Theni District.

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

+1 CC to MR.K.C.RAMALINGAM, Advocate (SR-5283[F] dated 07/02/2020)

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