



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 29.07.2020

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE Mr.JUSTICE R.PONGIAPPAN

CRL OP(MD)No.7288 of 2020

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1.Russelraj, S/o.George
2.Edwin Jacob, S/o.Russelraj ... Petitioners

Vs.

1.The Superintendent of Police,
Kanyakumari District,
Kanyakumari.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.

3.Isravel, S/o.Thangaiyan ... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code, praying to direct the second respondent not to harass the petitioners herein under the guise of enquiry, based on the complaint of the third respondent, which is purely a civil dispute.

For Petitioners : Mr.J.Sivaraman

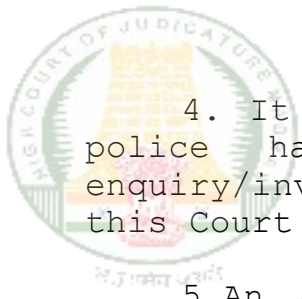
For R1 and R2 : Mr.S.Chandrasekar
Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed praying to direct the second respondent not to harass the petitioners under the guise of enquiry, based on the complaint of the third respondent, which is purely civil in nature.

2.Today, when the matter is taken up for hearing, the learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondents 1 and 2, on instructions, would submit that on the complaint given by the third respondent, petition enquiry has been initiated in C.S.R.No.186 of 2020, dated 26.02.2020 and as of now, petition enquiry is pending on the file of the second respondent.

3.Heard the learned Counsel for the petitioners and learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondents 1 and 2.



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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.



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

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (AD-II)

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// True Copy //

/ /2020

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

smn2

Note : In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate/litigant concerned.

To

1. The Superintendent of Police,
Kanyakumari District,
Kanyakumari.
2. The Inspector of Police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.
3. The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

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AP(12/08/2020) 3P 4C