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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRWP-2974-2020

Date of Decision: 20.03.2020

Sonia and another

..... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Manpreet Singh Dua, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

Both the petitioners are present in person and identified by their counsel. They seek protection of their life and liberty by contending that they have married each other against the wishes of their respective family members respondent Nos.4 to 6, and so seek appropriate protection from the authorities. They submitted a representation (Annexure P-4) in this regard to the Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur on 18.03.2020, but are still apprehensive about their security in view of the apparent inaction and alleged clout of their family members-respondents.

2. Both of them have married each other in support of which, marriage photographs (Annexure P-3) have been placed on record.

3. For the aforesaid reasons, this appears to be a fit case for this Court to invoke the inherent powers under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. and in view of the mandate contained in Article 21 of the Constitution of India to protect the citizen's right to life and liberty. There is a typographical error

with respect to husband's and father's name as petitioner No.1 was shown to

be wife of Ravi Dass, who is in fact her father, in the Memorandum of Parties which stands corrected.

4. Thus the Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur is directed to consider the representation dated 18.03.2020 (Annexure P-4) and take appropriate steps to ensure that no harm is caused to the life and liberty of the petitioners.

5. It is nevertheless clarified that this order is issued only on the premise that petitioner No.1 (bride) has crossed the age of majority as seen from the documents placed on record being her Aadhar Card. The petitioners have not produced on record a copy of their marriage certificate. However, they have appended affidavits in support of their marriage and photographs (Annexure P-3). This would not *ipso facto* amount to granting any seal of approval on the legality of their marriage which essentially would come in the domain of the concerned Matrimonial Courts. Further, they would not be entitled for any protection against their arrest or continuance of any criminal proceedings, if otherwise, found to be involved in commission of any cognizable offence(s).

6. The petition is disposed off with the above direction.

20.03.2020

Bhumika

**(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE**

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes

2. Whether reportable: No