

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

**CRWP No. 3617 of 2020
Date of Decision: 10.6.2020**

Sushmita Bathnotra and another

...Petitioners

Vs.

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE RAJIV NARAIN RAINA

Present: Mr. S.K. Choudhary, Advocate
for the petitioners.

RAJIV NARAIN RAINA, J. (Oral)

1. Case is taken up for hearing today through video conferencing due to pandemic of COVID-19.

2. Issue notice of motion to the respondents.

3. On the asking of the Court, Mr. Suveer Sheokhand, Addl. AG Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the State.

4. This is a joint petition by petitioner Nos. 1 & 2 seeking protection of their life and liberty from the hands of respondent Nos. 4 to 8 and for not harassing them on any false criminal complaint. They state that they are married but their families oppose their union. Their Aadhar Card, marriage certificate and photographs of marriage are placed on record.

5. Since this Court is concerned only with the life and liberty of the petitioners under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, a direction must go to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Pathankot, District Pathankot, Punjab to take steps as are required for the protection of the petitioners against the public and from the private

respondents to avoid any untoward incident or bodily harm to the petitioners.

6. This order will not be treated as an expression of opinion on any of the issues lying between the petitioners and the respondents which have nothing to do the petitioners' freedom; nor would this order be read as a recognition of marriage. This order will have no value for its passing other than by reason of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

7. Disposed of with the directions as above.

(RAJIV NARAIN RAINA)
JUDGE

10.6.2020

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Whether speaking/reasoned : *Yes/No*

Whether reportable : *Yes/No*