

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

(117)

CRWP-6257-2020

Date of decision: 24.08.2020

**Neha Verma and another
Versus
State of Punjab and others**

**...Petitioners
...Respondents**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present:- Mr. Satnam Singh Thakur, Advocate
for the petitioners.

...

SUDIP AHLUWALIA. (Oral)

Both the petitioners are present through Video Conferencing and identified by their counsel. They seek protection of their lives and liberty by contending that both of them having attained the age of majority, are living together in a live-in-relationship against the wishes of their respective family members respondent Nos.4 to 8, and so seek appropriate protection from the authorities. They submitted representation (Annexure P-3) in this regard to the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana on 17.08.2020, 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 do appear to have crossed the age of majority as seen from the copies of documents being Matriculation Certification of petitioner No.1 and Adhaar Card of petitioner No.2.

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.

4. Thus the Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana is directed to consider the representation dated 17.08.2020 (Annexure P-3) and take appropriate steps to ensure that no harm is caused to the life and liberty of the petitioners.

5. It is, however, observed that the petitioners would not be entitled to any protection against their arrest or continuance of any criminal proceedings, if otherwise, found to be involved in punishable cognizable offence.

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

(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE

24.08.2020

Pardeep

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No