



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: **03.09.2021**

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **G.ILANGOVAN**

Crl.O.P. (MD) No.12780 of 2021

and

Crl.M.P. (MD) No.6580 of 2021

T.Augastin

... Petitioner/ Sole Accused

Vs.

1.The State represented by
The Inspector of Police,
Marthandam Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.
In Crime No.375 of 2020

... 1st Respondent/ Complainant

2.Robert Udaya Singh

... Respondents/Defacto Complainant

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C, to call for the records pertaining to the FIR in Crime No.375 of 2020 dated 13.04.2020 alleged offences under Section 188 and 269 of IPC and Section 3 of Epidemic Disease Act, 1987 r/w 51 of Disaster Management Act, on the file of the 1st respondent police and quash the same as illegal.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Maran

For R1 : Mr.R.M.Anbunithi

Additional Public Prosecutor (Crl.Side)

ORDER

This petition is filed seeking quashment of Crime No.375 of 2020 on the file of the 1st respondent.

2.Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Public Prosecutor (Crl.Side) for the 1st respondent.

3.The case of the petitioner is that on 13.04.2020 at about 10.30 hours, the petitioner herein was wandering in the road by using his two wheeler bearing Reg.No.TN 75 U 6867 at the time of prohibition due to COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, a case in Crime No.375 of 2020 for the offences punishable under Sections 188 and 269 of IPC has been registered. The present petition is filed to quash the First Information Report in Crime No.375 of 2020.

4.This petition is filed mainly on the ground that Section 188 IPC is non-cognizable offence and the police has no right to register the case and investigate. Section 269 IPC is concerned, there is no intention on the part of the petitioner to spread the disease to another and simply he was wandering in that area.

5.Heard both sides.

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6.In the judgment reported in **2018(2) L.W (Crl.) 606 In Jeevanandhan and others Vs. State rep. by Inspector of Police, Velayuthampalayam Police Station, Karur District and another**), it has been held that the police has no right to file a case under Section 188 IPC and to investigate the same without getting proper permission from the concerned jurisdictional Magistrate. Here, there is no material to show that before registering the case, permission of the concerned jurisdictional Magistrate has been obtained. In such circumstances, the respondent has no right to register the case and to investigate the matter. A detailed guideline has been issued by this Court in the judgment cited supra. On this aspect, Section 188 IPC will not stand against the petitioner.

7.The offence under Section 269 IPC is concerned, as per the contents of the First Information Report, it is seen that the petitioner was simply wandering in the road. It is a trivial matter in which no offence of grievous nature is involved. Even though Section 144 Cr.P.C order was in force, during the relevant time the respondent police ought to have warned the petitioner to go in-door, instead of that, they filed a case. It is also not the case of the respondent that at the time of the incident, the petitioner was affected by COVID-19. So the contention that wandering in the road during the pandemic period will spread the disease is without any basis.

8.Considering the nature of allegations and the offences involved in this case, I am of the considered view that wandering in the road without any reason should not be a reason for spoiling the future of the petitioner. Unintended casual act should not take away the future of the petitioner. It is brought to the notice of this Court that the petitioner got a job in abroad and during the pendency of this case, he was not able to go abroad for job. It is also brought to the notice of this Court that the Government is also going to drop all these cases, which have been registered during the pandemic period against the public. Taking all these aspects into account, I am of the considered view that the First Information Report in in Crime No.375 of 2020 on the file of the 1st respondent is liable to be quashed and the same is quashed.

9.In fine, this petition is allowed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-I)

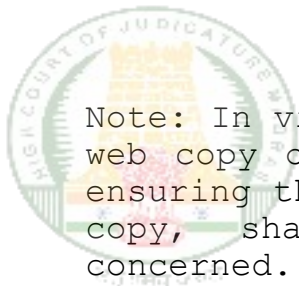
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/ /2021

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

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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.

WEB COPY

To

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

CrI.O.P. (MD) No.12780 of 2021
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RD(20.09.2021) 3P 3C