



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 27.10.2021

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.ILANGO VAN

Crl.O.P (MD) No.16410 of 2021

and Crl.M.P(MD) Nos.8833 of 2021

WEB COPY

Bharath

... Petitioner/Sole Accused

-Vs-

1.State rep. by

The Inspector of Police,
Checkanurani Police Station,
Madurai District.

(Crime No.999 of 2020)

... 1st Respondent/Complainant

2.Thirugnanam

Special Sub Inspector of Police,
Checkanurani Police Station,
Checkanurani,
Madurai District.

... 2nd Respondent/Defacto Complainant

PRAYER: The Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to call for the records of the FIR in Crime No.999 of 2020 on the file of the 1st respondent and quash the same.

For Petitioner : Mr.J.Sulthan Basha

For Respondent : Mr.RMS.Sethuraman

Additional Public Prosecutor

ORDER

This petition is filed seeking quashment of Crime No.999 of 2020 on the file of the respondent.

2.Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Government Advocate (Crl.Side) for the respondent.

3.The case of the petitioner is that on 21.06.2020 at about 12.00 noon, the petitioner herein was roaming in the street without wearing mask and acted against the guidelines issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu with regard to the implementation of 144 proceedings due to COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, a case in Crime No.999 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.999 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 roaming in the road.

5.Heard both sides.

6.In the judgment reported in **2018(2) L.W (CrI.) 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 roaming 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 indoor, instead of that, they filed a case. It is also not the case of the respondent police that at the time of the incident, the petitioner was affected by COVID-19. So the contention that roaming 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 roaming in the road without any reason should not be a reason for spoiling the future of the petitioner. Moreover, 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 Crime No.999 of 2020 on the file of the respondent is liable to be quashed and accordingly, the same is quashed.

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

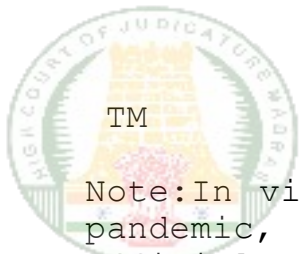
Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CO)

// True Copy //

/ /2021

Sub Assistant Registrar (CS)



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 Inspector of Police,
Checkanurani Police Station,
Madurai District.

2.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

+1 CC to M/s.J.SULTHAN BASHA, Advocate (SR-32878[F] dated
27/10/2021)

CRL OP (MD) No.16410 of 2021

27.10.2021

RS (01.12.2021) 3P 4C