

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

122

**CRWP-2163-2021
Date of decision: 03.03.2021**

Meenu and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI

Present : Mr. Mahipal S. Yadav, Advocate for the petitioners
with petitioners in person.

ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, J (ORAL)

The petitioners, claiming themselves to be both aged about 21 years, have approached this Court seeking protection of their life and liberty on the averments that the petitioners, being major, performed marriage on 24.02.2021 in a Church at Gurdaspur, as per Christian rites and ceremonies against the wishes of respondents No.4 to 10 and the petitioners are apprehending threat to their life and liberty at their instance.

In support of the averments made in the petition, the petitioners have also enclosed photographs taken at the time of their marriage.

Notice of motion restricted to respondents No.1 to 3 only.

Pursuant to supply of advance copy, Mr. Amit Mehta, Sr. D.A.G., Punjab has appeared and accepted notice on behalf of respondents No.1 to 3.

At this stage, Mr. Manpreet Singh Dua, Advocate has put in appearance and filed his power of attorney on behalf of respondent No.4 which is taken on record.

Respondent No.4 and her husband Rajinder Kumar, parents of petitioner No.1, are also present in the Court in person.

The petitioners, who are present before this Court, have, on being questioned by the Court, admitted having solemnized marriage and reiterated their prayer for protection as mentioned in the petition.

In the course of hearing, parents of petitioner No.1 have stated that they wanted to talk with petitioner No.1 but petitioner No.1 has refused to do so.

The parents of petitioner No.1 have requested that the petitioners being residents of the same village be directed to live out of the village as living of the petitioners in the village will subject them (parents of petitioner No.1) to ridicule.

The petitioners are entitled to live at a place of their choice and no such direction can be given to the petitioners for leaving their village and living elsewhere.

Learned Counsel for the petitioners states that a representation dated 25.02.2021 (Annexure P-5) was made to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur seeking necessary protection but no action has been taken so far in the matter and prays for issuance of direction in this regard.

Learned State Counsel has no objection if appropriate direction for providing requisite protection to the petitioners is given.

Without examining the question of legality and validity of the marriage and expressing any opinion thereon, the petition is disposed of with the directions to respondent No.2-Senior Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur to look into the grievances of the

petitioners as set out in the petition and also expressed in the representation (Annexure P-5) and take appropriate action for protection of their life and liberty as may be warranted by the circumstances.

However, it is clarified that in case any criminal case has been/is registered against petitioner No.2, then nothing in this order shall be construed as a bar for taking of appropriate action by the police authorities against him in respect thereof in accordance with law.

The Registry of this Court is directed to send a copy of this order along with copy of the petition and above-said representation to respondent No.2- Senior Superintendent of Police, Gurdaspur for requisite compliance.

03.03.2021

Vinay

(ARUN KUMAR TYAGI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No