



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 08.03.2022

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE A.D.JAGADISH CHANDIRA

CRL.O.P.NO.5159 OF 2022

1. S.Karthik
2. K.Kanchanadevi
3. M.Govindaraj
4. H.Villiam Brown

... Petitioners

Vs.

State Rep by Inspector of Police,
District Crime Branch,
Coimbatore.

... Respondent

PRAYER: This Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., to direct the respondent not to harass the petitioners.

For Petitioners	:	Mr.J.Franklin
For Respondents	:	Mr.V.Meganathan Government Advocate (criminal side)

O R D E R

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to direct the respondent not to harass the petitioners.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners would submit that in respect of the very same complaint, the petitioner was already summoned by the respondent. Since the petitioner was earlier harassed, he approached this Court in CrI.O.P.No.5365 of 2020 and this Court by order dated 09.03.2020 directed the respondent to not to harass the petitioner. Even thereafter, the respondent is harassing the petitioners.



3. Mr.V.Meganathan, learned Government Advocate (Criminal side) appearing for the respondent would submit that on the complaint given by one Pichaimani, enquiry has been conducted in C.No.45/GENERAL/DSP/DCB and the same is pending on the file of the respondent police. He would further submit that the respondent police is not harassing the petitioners. The learned Government Advocate (criminal side) would further submit that the petitioners are asked to appear before the Respondent for enquiry on 19.01.2022. Summons are served on the petitioners on 19.01.2022. However, they have not appeared for the enquiry and now they filed this present petition.

4. Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

5. It is the grievance of the petitioners that the respondent police have been harassing him under the guise of enquiry/investigation and hence, have invoked the inherent powers of this Court under Section 482 of Cr.P.C.

6. An enquiry into a non-cognizable offence or a cognizable offence is the unfettered powers of the Investigation Officers so long as the power to investigate/enquire into these offences are legitimately exercised within the frame work of Chapter XII of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Though the Code of Criminal Procedure empowers the Magistrate to be a guardian in all the stages of the police investigation, there is no power envisaging him to interfere with the actual investigation or the mode of investigation. It is in this background that numerous petitions complaining of harassment are being reported and filed before this Court seeking for directions to refrain the police officials from harassing the persons named in a complaint.

7. This Court, exercising its power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code normally would not interfere with the investigation conducted by a police officer. Nevertheless, it would also not turn a blind eye to instances of harassment by the police under the guise of investigation is brought to its notice.

8. In the present case in hand, the petitioners have complained of harassment by the police based on a complaint and seek for this Court's intervention by way of a direction. The term 'harassment' by itself has a very wide meaning and hence, what could be harassment to the petitioners may not be the same to the police officer.

9. In order to circumvent such situations, the following guidelines are issued:-



a) While summoning any person named in the complaint or any witness to the incident complained of, the police officer shall summon such person through a written summon under Section 160 Cr.P.C., specifying a particular date and time for appearing before them for such an enquiry/investigation.

b) The respondents police are directed to serve summons mentioning the CSR number, date of complaint and the name of the complainant.

c) The minutes of the enquiry shall be recorded in the general diary/station diary/daily diary of the police station.

d) The police officer shall refrain himself or herself from harassing persons called upon for enquiry/investigation.

e) The guidelines stipulated for preliminary enquiry or registration of FIR by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Lalita Kumari Vs. Government of Uttar Pradesh and others [2014 (2) SCC (1)] shall be strictly adhered to.

(f) In the event of any cognizable offences made out, the respondent police shall register a regular case and follow the procedure in accordance with law.

10. With the above observations and direction, the Criminal Original Petition stands disposed of.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS-III)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

shk/sai

To

1. The Inspector of Police,
District Crime Branch,
Coimbatore.

2. The Public Prosecutor,
High Court of Madras.

Cr1.O.P.No.5159 of 2022

NRL(CO)
RLP(18/03/2022)