



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 07.02.2022

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Crl.O.P. (MD)No.2401 of 2022

K.Ayyachamy

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The State represented by,
The Superintendent of Police,
Office of the Superintendent of Police,
Trichy.

2.The Inspector of Police,
Manapparai Police Station,
Trichy.

3.K.Karthik

...Respondents

Prayer: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C.,
to direct the second respondent police not to interfere with the
civil dispute except under due process of law.

For Petitioner : Mr.B.Jameel Arasu

For RR 1 & 2 : Mr.R.M.Anbunithi
Additional Public Prosecutor

For R - 3 : Mr.L.Prabhu

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed to direct the
second respondent not to interfere with the civil dispute pending
between the petitioner and the third respondent.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits
that the respondent police harassed the petitioner under the guise
of enquiry.

3. The learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the
respondent police submits that on the complaint lodged by the third
respondent before the second respondent, the second respondent
issued summons to the petitioner and enquiry is pending.

4. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and learned
Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent police.



5. It is the grievance of the petitioner that the respondent police has been harassing him under the guise of an enquiry/investigation and hence, has 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 petitioner has 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 petitioner 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.

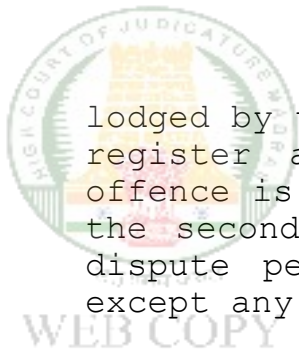
b) The respondent police is directed to serve summons mentioning the CSR number, date of complaint and the name of the complainant

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.

10. If any cognizable offence is made out in the complaint



lodged by the third respondent, the second respondent is directed to register and proceed in accordance with law. If no cognizance offence is made out in the complaint lodged by the third respondent, the second respondent is directed not to interfere with the civil dispute pending between the petitioner and the third respondent, except any other crime committed by the petitioner.

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

Sd/-

Deputy Registrar (LA&MC)

// True Copy //

/ /2022

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.

To

- 1.The Superintendent of Police,
Office of the Superintendent of Police,
Trichy.
- 2.The Inspector of Police,
Manapparai Police Station,
Trichy.
- 3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

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RD(04.03.2022) 3P 4C