

CRWP No.7405 of 2022  
Date of Decision:03.08.2022

Neha and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Suvir Sidhu, Advocate for  
Mr. Munish Gupta, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Dhruv Dayal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

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ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

Fearing for their lives and liberty at the hands of the private respondents, the petitioners who claim to have married after attaining the permissible age for marriage, against the wishes of the private respondents, have come up before this Court by invoking their fundamental rights of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, seeking direction to the State to protect them.

2. Notices served upon the official respondents through the State's counsel. Given the nature of the order that this Court proposes to pass, neither the response of official respondents nor the issuance of notices to the private respondents is required.

3. If the allegations of apprehension of threat to their lives turn out to be true, it might lead to an irreversible loss. Thus, in the facts and circumstances peculiar to this case, it shall be appropriate that the concerned Superintendent of Police, SHO, or any officer to whom such powers have been delegated or have been authorized in this regard, provide appropriate protection to the petitioners for one week from today. However, if the petitioners no longer require the protection, then at their request it may be discontinued even before the expiry of one week. After that, the concerned officers shall extend the protection on day-to-day analysis of the ground realities or upon the oral or written request of the petitioners.

4. This order is subject to the condition that from the time such protection is granted, the petitioners shall not flaunt it and shall avoid visiting areas where there may be a threat to their lives according to their perception.

5. It is clarified that there is no adjudication on merits and that this order is not a blanket bail in any FIR. It is further clarified that this order shall not come in the way if

the interrogation of the petitioners is required in any cognizable case. It shall also be open for the petitioner(s) to approach this Court again in case of any fresh threat perception.

6. Learned counsel Mr. Nitish Garg, puts in appearance on behalf of respondents No.5 to 7 and submits that parents of petitioner No.1-Neha, want to meet her.

7. Given above, respondents No.5 to 7 shall appear before the concerned Mediation Center at Patiala. The concerned SHO shall also ensure presence of the petitioner-Neha and arrange meeting for one hour on 05.08.2022 at 1pm. It is made clear that the meeting shall not be more than one hour. It is also clarified that at the time of meeting, one police official should be present and in case, the private respondents create any kind of threat or misbehave with Neha, it shall be taken seriously and the meeting may be dis-continued immediately from that point onwards.

8. *There would be no need for a certified copy of this order, and any Advocate for the Petitioner and State can download this order and other relevant particulars from the official web page of this court and attest it to be a true copy. The concerned officer can also verify its authenticity and may download and use the downloaded copy for immediate use.*

Petition is allowed to the extent mentioned above. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)  
JUDGE

03.08.2022  
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| Whether speaking/reasoned: | Yes |
| Whether reportable:        | No. |