

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

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CRWP-10698-2022

Decided on : 14.11.2022

Ashwani Begum @ Ashwani Kaur and another

. . . Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab and others

. . . Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

PRESENT: Mr. Varinder Basa, Advocate for petitioners.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (Oral)

Prayer in the instant petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, is for issuance of directions to respondents No. 2 and 3 to provide protection of life and liberty to petitioners, who have married against the wishes of private respondents.

Learned counsel for petitioners submits that Petitioner No. 1- Ashwani Begum @ Ashwani Kaur, aged about 22 years, has performed marriage on 09.11.2022, with petitioner No. 2- Gurpreet Singh, who is aged about 25 years, after changing the religion from Mohammedan to that of Sikhism and also against the wishes of her family members, arrayed as respondents No. 4 to 9. It has been further submitted that private respondents are threatening to interfere in the marital life of petitioners. Hence, petitioners are seeking protection in that regard and have approached this Court by way of filing the instant petition. They have also submitted a representation dated 09.11.2022 (Annexure P-6) to respondent No.2 – Senior Superintendent of Police, Fatehgarh Sahib, wherein, they have expressed their apprehension.

Notice of motion.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Anmol Singh Sandhu, AAG,

Punjab, who is present in the Court, accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos. 1 to 3 (State).

In view of the above, present petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No.2 – Senior Superintendent of Police, Fatehgarh Sahib, to look into the representation dated 09.11.2022 (Annexure P-6) *qua* threat perception and if there is any substance in it, take necessary steps, in accordance with law, to ensure that lives and liberty of petitioners is not jeopardized at the hands of the private respondents. Respondent No. 2 would also ensure that conversion of the religion of petitioner No. 1-Ashwani Begum @ Ashwani Kaur from Mohammedan to that of Sikhism, is with her free will and wish.

However, this direction will not validate the marriage said to have taken place between the parties and will have no effect on any civil or criminal action, which could be initiated in the matter in accordance with law.

(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE

November 14, 2022
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Whether speaking/reasoned: *Yes/No*
Whether Reportable: *Yes/No*