

205 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRWP No.4931-2022
Date of Decision: 05.07.2023

Manju Bala ...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others ...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Amandeep Sharma, Advocate for
Mr. A.S. Manaise, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Karunesh Kaushal, AAG, Punjab.

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

Fearing for life and liberty at the hands of the private respondents, the petitioner, invoking the fundamental right of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, has come up before this Court seeking protection through the State.

2. Counsel for the petitioner submits that he would be confining his prayer to the extent of protection of life and liberty of the petitioner at this stage, reserving his right to take other legal remedies for remaining prayers including filing of fresh writ petition.

3. If the allegations of apprehension of threat to life 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 petitioner for one week from today. However, if the petitioner no longer requires 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 petitioner.

4. This protection is subject to the stringent condition that from the time such protection is given, the petitioner shall not go outside the boundaries of the place of residence, except for medical necessities, to buy household necessities, and for bereavements in the families of the close relatives or close friends. This restriction saves the petitioner from apprehended risk and ensures that the protection is not flaunted.

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

6. **This order shall eclipse after thirty days from today.**

7. Liberty reserved to the petitioner to file a fresh representation to the concerned Senior Superintendent of Police within fifteen days from today. If the petitioner files a representation within the above mentioned time period of fifteen days, then the same shall be decided by the concerned Senior Superintendent of Police within two months.

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

05.07.2023
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether reportable: No.