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

CRWP No. 7696 of 2023

Date of Decision: 04.08.2023

Ankita Rani and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr Ravi Malik, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Manish Bansal, Sr. D.A.G, Haryana.

Mr. Chander Shekhar Singhal, Advocate
for respondents No. 4 to 6.

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, response of the official respondents is not required.

3. Mr. Chander Shekhar Singhal, Advocate has put in appearance on behalf of respondents No. 4 to 6 and filed power of attorney, which is taken on record. He submits that the private respondents want to meet their daughter.

4. Given above, the prayer is genuine and the same is allowed.

5. 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.

6. This protection is subject to the stringent condition that from the time such protection is given, the petitioners 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. However, petitioner(s) shall be at liberty to shift the residence(s) and if the new place falls within the district, then the protection shall be extended to such place. This restriction saves the petitioner from apprehended risk and ensures that the protection is not flaunted.

7. 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.

8. After interacting with counsel for the parties, counsel for the private respondents submits that private respondents would go to meet their daughter on 08.08.2023 at 11 a.m. at the address mentioned in the petition.

9. Given the request on behalf of the parents i.e private respondents, they are permitted to meet their daughter on 08.08.2023 at 11.00 a.m. at the address mentioned in the petition and they will stay there at least around 04 hours. Counsel for the petitioners is directed to convey the petitioners especially petitioner No. 2 not to make any hindrance and be extremely respectful towards the parents of petitioner No. 1 when they shall meet their daughter. It is further directed that the private respondents shall also behave with the petitioners in a decent and respectful manner.

10. It is clarified that in case, the parties find any difficulty, they may interact with their respective counsels. This Court requests the counsels to communicate with each other and solve the problems.

11 **This order shall eclipse after fifteen days from today.**

12. *There would be no need for a certified copy of this order, and any Advocate for the Petitioners 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

04.08.2023
Jyoti-II

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes
Whether reportable:	No.