

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

207

CRWP No. 10866 of 2022 (O&M)

Date of decision: 10.01.2023

Lakshay Chanana

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Pankaj Bains, Advocate for
Mr. Stephan Masih, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. J.S.Arora, DAG, Punjab.

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in the instant petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, seeking protection of life and personal liberty of the petitioner and to further direct the respondents No. 4 to 6 not to interfere in the personal life and liberty of the petitioner and further directing the respondents No. 2 and 3 not to allow/let private respondents No. 4 to 6 or anybody else to interfere with the life and liberty of the petitioner.

Infact respondents No. 4 and 5 are parents of the petitioner and respondent No. 6 is uncle/Taya Ji of the petitioner. On 18.11.2022, following order was passed.

“Petitioner- Lakshay Chanana, aged about 24 years, has approached this Court to seek protection of his life and liberty at the hands of private respondents No. 4 to 6, who are none other than his own parents and uncle (Taya Ji).

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that originally petitioner was believing in Hindu religion and now has converted his religion from Hindu to Christianity with his free will & wish and without

any pressure and coercion.

Notice of motion.

At this stage, Mr. Anmol Singh Sandhu, AAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of respondents No. 1 to 3(State).

Learned State counsel is directed to seek a report and then to produce before this Court as to whether the conversion of religion of the petitioner is voluntarily in all manners or due to some other reason.

Adjourned to 07.12.2022.”

Today, short reply dated 09.01.2023 has been filed by the State on behalf of respondents No. 1 to 3. Para 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the said reply says as under:

“3.That it is humbly submitted here that the present petitioner in his statement has stated that in the year 2016, the petitioner had converted his religion from Hinduism to Christianity. The petitioner had converted his religion voluntarily without any coercion or greed. The present petitioner further stated that with regard to the complaint which he has submitted against his parents and parental uncle regarding beating, torturing and threatening, he does not want to take any action on the same as they have amicably settled the matter. Now, he has no threat from his parents. The true translated copy of the statement of the petitioner is being annexed herewith as Annexure R-1/1.

4.That it is pertinent to mention here that the statements of the respondent no. 4 and the respondent no. 5 have also been recorded. The respondent no. 4 in his statement has broadly

stated that his son has converted his religion to Christianity. The respondent no. 4 and his family members have compromised the matter with his son Lakshay. The respondent no. 4 being an advocate is a law-abiding citizen. The respondent no. 4 and his family shall comply with the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court.

5. That similarly, the respondent no. 5 in her statement has stated that her son has converted his religion from Hinduism to Christianity. The respondent no. 5 and her family members have compromised the matter with her son Lakshay. The respondent no. 5 being a school teacher is a law-abiding citizen and she will comply with the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court.

6. That in view of the statements of the petitioner as well as his parents i.e. respondent no. 4 & respondent no. 5, the matter has been settled amicably and at present, the petitioner does not face any threat from his parents and his parental uncle.”

In view of the stand of the parties, this Court does not feel any necessity to further adjourn the case for awaiting service of the private respondents. However, as per the stand taken by the official respondents, reflecting from the short reply filed by the State, learned counsel for the petitioner seeks withdrawal of the present petition at this stage.

Dismissed as withdrawn at this stage.

10.01.2023

Rajeev (rvs)

(SANJAY VASHISTH)

JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No