

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

**CRWP-12263-2022
DECIDED ON: 17.02.2023**

GUNJAN AND ANR.

.....PETITIONERS

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL.

Present: Mr. Rishu Garg, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Mohit Chaudhary, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Manvir Singh Toor, Advocate
for respondents No.4 and 5.

SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)

Learned counsel for the petitioners seeks protection of life and liberty of the petitioners by contending that both of them having attained the age of majority, have married each other against the wishes of their respective family members respondent Nos. 4 to 9 and to seek appropriate protection from the authorities. They submitted a representation dated 23.12.2022 (Annexure P-5), in this regard to the Senior Superintendent of Police, District Barnala, but are still apprehensive about their security in view of the apparent inaction and alleged clout of their family members-respondents.

Both of them do appear to have crossed the age of majority as seen from the copies of documents filed and have married each other, in support of which, Marriage Certificate (Annexure P-3) and Marriage Photos (Annexure P-4), have been placed on record.

Short reply filed by way of an affidavit of Ravinder Kataria on

behalf of respondents No.4 to 6, is taken on record.

For the aforesaid reasons, this appears to be a fit case for this Court to invoke the inherent powers under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. and in view of the mandate contained in Article 21 of the Constitution of India to protect the citizen's right to life and liberty.

Thus, the Senior Superintendent of Police, District Barnala, is directed to consider the representation dated 23.12.2022 (Annexure P-5) and take appropriate steps to ensure that no harm is caused to the life and liberty of the petitioners.

It is nevertheless clarified that this order is issued only on the premise that the petitioners have crossed the age of majority as seen from the documents placed on record being their Aadhar Cards as Annexures P-1 and P-2. This would not *ipso facto* amount to granting any seal of approval on the legality of their marriage which essentially would come in the domain of the concerned Matrimonial Courts. Further, they would not be entitled for any protection against their arrest or continuance of any criminal proceedings, if otherwise, found to be involved in commission of any cognizable offence(s).

The petition is disposed of with the above directions.

(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)
JUDGE

17.02.2023
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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No