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

CRWP-198-2024

Decided on:-10.01.2024

Sharmeela and another

....Petitioners...

VS.

State of Punjab and others

....Respondents.

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARKESH MANUJA

Present: Mr. Nishant Sehgal, Advocate for
Mr. Karanjeet Singh Brar, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

HARKESH MANUJA J. (Oral)

1. Present criminal writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India has been filed by the petitioners praying for protection to their life and liberty, in view of the marriage solemnized by them against the wishes of respondents No.4 and 5.

2. Upon advance notice, Mr. Shubham Kaushik, AAG, Punjab, appears on behalf of respondents No.1 to 3. Requisite copies of the petition have already been supplied to the respondents-State by the learned counsel for the petitioners.

3. Paper-book reveals that marriage of petitioners No.1 and 2 was solemnized on 19.12.2023. The documents annexed by the petitioners with the petition including their Aadhar Cards (Annexures P-1 and P-2) show that both are major and duly identified by their counsel, but apprehending danger to their life and liberty at the hands of respondents No.4 and 5.

4. Apprehending threat to their life and liberty, petitioners have

already approached respondents No.2 and 3 by way of representation dated 01.01.2024 (Annexure P-4).

5. Accordingly, the present petition is disposed of, with a direction to respondent No.2- Senior Superintendent of Police, Fazilka, District Fazilka, to look into the representation dated 01.01.2024 (Annexure P-4) and in case he finds any threat perception to the petitioners, appropriate steps be taken to protect their life and liberty and also ensure that no harm is caused to the petitioners by forcibly taking them in custody on the allegations that petitioner No.1 has been kidnapped, abducted or raped by petitioner No.2.

6. However, it is made clear that this order may not be construed as expression of an opinion on legality and validity of the marriage of the petitioners.

7. In case any criminal case is pending against petitioner No.2, this order shall not be any hindrance for the Investigating agency to proceed according to law.

10.01.2024
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(HARKESH MANUJA)
JUDGE

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