

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRWP-1900-2024 (O&M)
DECIDED ON: 29.02.2024

MONIKA AND ANOTHER

.....PETITIONERS

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL

Present: Mr. Imran Ahmad Ali, Advocate
for the petitioners.

SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)

CRM-W-257-2024

This is an application for exemption from filing certified copies of Annexure P-1 to P-5 and for placing on record the more legible photocopies of vernaculars Annexures P-1 to P-3.

For the reasons mentioned in the application, the same is allowed subject to all just exceptions. Annexures P-1 to P-3 are taken on record. Exemption sought for is granted.

Application stands disposed off.

CRWP-1900-2024

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 & 5 and to seek appropriate protection from the authorities. They submitted a representation dated

26.02.2024 (Annexure P-5) in this regard to the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jalandhar and Station House Officer, Adampur, Jalandhar, but are still apprehensive about their security in view of the apparent inaction and alleged clout of their family members-respondents.

Notice of motion.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Rajiv Verma, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the official respondents. A copy of the paper-book be handed over to him during the course of the day.

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 photographs (Annexure P-4) have been placed 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, Jalandhar is directed to consider the representation dated 26.02.2024 (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 Voter Card of petitioner No.1 and Aadhaar Card of petitioner No.2 as Annexures P-1 and P-2 respectively.

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 direction.

29.02.2024
Poonam Negi

(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No