



CRWP-5927-2024

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

CRWP-5927-2024

Date of Decision: 04.09.2024

Rajinder Singh Taggar

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr. R.S. Bains, Sr. Advocate with
Mr. Tejas Bhardwaj, Advocate and
Mr.I.P.S. Deol, Advocate, for the petitioner.
Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.
Mr. Harmeet Singh Oberoi, Advocate,
for the complainant.

Rajesh Bhardwaj, J.

1. Prayer in the present petition is for issuance of direction for protection of life and liberty of the petitioner as he has been implicated in three criminal cases i.e. FIR No.07 dated 24.01.2024, under Sections 384, 120-B IPC at Police Station Phase 8, FIR No.37, dated 20.03.2024 under Sections 341, 186, 384, 120-B IPC, at Police Station Phase 1, Mohali and FIR No.167 dated 09.05.2024 under Section 384 IPC at Police Station Zirakpur and protection is sought from further false implication of the petitioner by those persons directly affected by the professional activities of the news channel Punjab Dastavez and Bharat Dastavaz.

2. Learned Senior counsel has submitted before this Court that the petitioner is a journalist, who has been targeted by the respondent-State by filing frivolous FIRs as he has earned wrath of the police officials. He has submitted that the petitioner is a proprietor of two news channels, namely,



Punjab Dastavez in Punjabi and another Bharat Dastavez in Hindi and both these channels are available on social media platform i.e. YouTube and Facebook. He has submitted that Episode No.502 dated 20.04.2024 titled as “SSP Extortion Gang” and Episode No.500 dated 18.04.2024 titled as “Blackmail and Extortion by Mohali Police” were aired by the petitioner highlighting the high handedness of the Police Authority of Mohali. He submits that it is because of these episodes being aired on the news channels of the petitioner, he has been falsely implicated in various FIRs. He submits that by lodging these FIRs all efforts are being made to silence the voice of whistleblower. Hence, he submits that there is threat to the life and liberty of the petitioner and thus, necessary direction be issued for the protection of the petitioner.

3. The Court had issued notice to the State with a direction to file status report. The status report filed by way of affidavit of Gursher Singh Sandhu, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, SB&CI, District SAS Nagar dated 28.07.2024 alongwith a pen drive, has already been taken on record.

4. Learned State counsel has opposed the submissions made by learned Senior Counsel for the petitioner. He has submitted that the petitioner is a habitual litigant who himself alongwith co-accused is involved in blackmailing innocent citizens. He submits that the petitioner earlier filed CRM-M-20905-2024, however, the same was dismissed as withdrawn vide order dated 24.04.2024, wherein, he had prayed for issuance of advance notice of two days before proceeding against him. It is submitted that thus, clandestinely the petitioner filed the present petition on the same cause of

action. It is submitted that the petitioner is involved in the following four FIRs in District Mohali, which includes heinous offence like rape.

Sr. No.	FIR	Dated	Under Section
1.	195	14.06.2024	376, 354, 354-A, 354-B, 506 and 509 IPC
2.	07	27.01.2024	384, 120-B IPC and Section 7 & 12 of PC Act
3.	37	20.03.2024	341, 186, 384, 120-B IPC
4.	167	09.05.2024	384 IPC

5. Learned State counsel further submitted that in FIR No.195, statement of the prosecutrix was recorded under Section 164 Cr.P.C. wherein, she has duly supported her allegations against the petitioner. It is submitted that the investigation in all the FIRs has been conducted in a free and fair manner and there is no malafide whatsoever as alleged by the petitioner. He submits that the petitioner presently is behind the bars and no legal right of the petitioner has been violated. It is submitted that the State is duty bound to act in a free and fair manner and there is no threat whatsoever to the life of the petitioner as alleged. It is further submitted that the Jail Authorities are conscious of the legal rights of all the prisoners including the petitioner and thus, no discrimination would be caused to the petitioner by the State. It has been submitted that the allegations made by the petitioner are totally baseless and have been levelled against the State only to sensationalize the issue. He thus submits that the present petition being devoid of any merit, deserves to be dismissed with exemplary cost.

6. Learned counsel for the complainant has also opposed the submissions made by learned Senior Counsel. He has submitted that the petitioner is habitual of filing the frivolous petitions. He has submitted that



once the petitioner is already behind the bars, there is no question of any threat to his life as alleged. It is further submitted that thus, the present petition being devoid of any merit, deserves to be dismissed.

7. Heard.

8. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is apparent that the petitioner as contended is running his news channels. As evident from the record, the petitioner is facing prosecution in four FIRs. Admittedly, the petitioner is behind bars at present. Though it has been submitted by counsel for the petitioner that he has been shifted from District Jail, Roopnagar to District Jail, Ludhiana. Needless to say that shifting of the prisoners from one jail to another is an administrative function of the State. However, the legal rights of the prisoners do not change with the change of the prison. The main thrust of arguments of learned Senior Counsel is regarding lodging of the FIRs against the petitioner as an act of vendetta. He has raised various disputed question of facts, however, this Court refrains itself from going into these issues as raised by learned Senior Counsel. The petitioner is at liberty to raise this issue before the trial Court. However, the present petition has been filed primarily for granting protection to the petitioner as allegedly there is a threat to his life. It is apposite to note that admittedly, the petitioner is behind bars and the State is duty bound to provide necessary protection to all its prisoners including the petitioner. Thus, no ground for issuance of direction for issuance of advance notice to the petitioner as prayed by the petitioner, is made out. Learned State counsel has fairly submitted before



this Court that the Jail Authorities would abide by the rules and regulations of the jail manual.

9. Thus, in the facts and circumstances, this Court finds it appropriate to dispose of the present petition with a direction to the State to proceed in all the above-said FIRs registered against the petitioner in accordance with law and further ensure that no legal right of the petitioner as a prisoner is violated as has been undertaken by the State counsel before this Court.

10. The present petition stands disposed of in above-said terms.

04.09.2024
sharmila

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE
Whether Speaking/Reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No