



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRWP-5872-2024

Date of Decision: 24.06.2024

Sonia Rani and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE KIRTI SINGH

Present:-. Mr. Rakesh Kumar Kachura, Advocate for the petitioners.

KIRTI SINGH, J.(Oral)

This petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a direction to the official respondents for the protection of the life and liberty of the petitioners from the hands of the private respondents No.4 to 8 and further prayed that respondent No.2 be directed to decide the representation dated 19.06.2024 (Annexure P-3).

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that both petitioner No.1 and petitioner No.2 are major. The date of birth of petitioner No.1 and 2 is 17.02.2004 and 01.01.1993 respectively. Copies of Aadhar Cards of petitioners No.1 and 2 are annexed with the petition as Annexures P1 and P2 respectively. The petitioner No.1 is unmarried and the petitioner No.2 had married in the year 2013 and out of said wedlock, two children were born. He further submits that both the petitioners had left their house and have been residing together since last six months and now are being threatened by respondents No.4 to 8 with dire consequences.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners has placed reliance on the judgments passed by this Court in CRWP-4521-2021 titled as **Pardeep Singh and another Vs. State of Haryana and others** decided on

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18.05.2021 and CRWP-4905-2024 titled as **Yadwinder Singh and another Vs. State of Punjab and others** decided on 24.05.2024. He has also relied upon the order dated 02.11.2021 passed by the Coordinate Bench of this Court in CRWP-10411-2021 titled as **Amandeep Kaur and another Vs. State of Punjab and others** as per which in a case where one of the parties was married and was living in with another person other than the spouse, this Court had granted protection to the petitioners. He has further submitted that the petitioners had given a representation dated 19.06.2024 (Annexure P-3) to respondent No.2 and would be satisfied in case respondent No.2 is directed to look into the said representation and after considering the threat perception to the petitioners to take appropriate action.

4. Notice of motion to respondents No.1 to 3 only.

5. At the asking of the Court, Mr. Prabhdeep Singh Bhandari, AAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondents No.1 to 3-State and has stated that he has no objection in case respondent No.2 is directed to look into the representation of the petitioners on the aspect of threat perception and to take appropriate action. Counsel for the petitioners is directed to supply a copy of the complete paper book to the learned State counsel.

6. Heard.

7. With respect to the aspect of the petitioner No.2 not being divorced, it is relevant to refer to a judgment of Division Bench of this Court dated 03.09.2021 passed in **LPA-769-2021 titled as Ishrat Bano and another Vs. State of Punjab and others**. Ishrat Bano (petitioner therein) had filed CRWP-7903-2021 which was dismissed by the learned Single Judge of this Court primarily on the ground that the petitioners' documents



legal. The matter was taken up in appeal and the Division Bench of this Court vide judgment dated 03.09.2021 passed in **LPA-769-2021** titled as **Ishrat Bano and another Vs. State of Punjab and others** has held as under:-

“The aspect which we are considering and dealing with is with regard to the threat to the life and liberty to the appellants as has been asserted by them. No doubt, in case a criminal case is registered against any of the parties, the law should take its own course, however, the life and liberty of any person who has approached the Court with such a grievance need to be taken care of and the protection be provided as permissible in law. No person can be permitted or allowed to take law in his hands and therefore, keeping in view the said aspect, we dispose of the present appeal by observing that the Senior Superintendent of Police, Maler Kotla, shall take into consideration the representation dated 17.08.2021 (Annexure P-5) submitted by the appellants and if some substance is found therein, take appropriate steps in accordance with law to ensure that the life and liberty is not jeopardized of the appellants at the hands of the private respondents. This direction shall not be construed in any manner to restrain the official respondents to proceed against the appellants in case there is some criminal case registered against them. The law shall take its own course and it shall be open to the authorities/investigating agency to proceed against the appellants, if required in law and in accordance thereto.”

8. Thus, the Division Bench after considering the aspect of the protection of the life and liberty and without getting into the issue as to whether the relationship between the parties are legal or not, even in spite of the fact that there was a criminal case registered against the parties, however, granted them protection.



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9. In view of the same, it goes without saying that the protection of life and liberty is a fundamental right emanating out of Article 21 of the Constitution of India and the scope of the present petition is only regarding protection of life and liberty of the petitioners.
10. Keeping in view the abovesaid facts and circumstances and without commenting upon the legality of the relationship between the petitioners or expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of the present petition with a direction to respondent no.2 to consider the representation dated 19.06.2024 (Annexure P-3) and to assess the threat perception to the petitioners and after considering the same to take appropriate action in accordance with law.
11. Accordingly, the petition stands disposed of with abovesaid directions. It is, however, clarified that this order shall not debar the State and/or any person aggrieved from proceeding against the petitioners for violation of any law or if they are involved in any other case.

(KIRTI SINGH)
JUDGE

24.06.2024
Kavita Nain

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