

2024:PHHC:104535



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

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CWP-20086-2022

Date of decision: 06.08.2024

JAGDISH MASIH AND ANOTHER

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present: - None for the petitioner.

Ms. Akshita Chauhan, DAG, Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

Prayer in the present writ petition is for seeking directions to the respondent-State of Punjab to make adequate arrangements for protection of the Churches within the State of Punjab and to protect the property including the statues of Jesus Christ.

Reply by way of an affidavit of Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Punjab had been filed on 06.03.2023. The relevant extract thereof reads thus:-

6. That in view of the averments made in the writ petition, reports have been obtained from various filed units in the State of Punjab. As per the aforesaid reports, generally a peaceful



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environment prevails in the State of Punjab. Some stray incidents had happened but requisite and prompt action was taken by the concerned District/Commissionerate and criminal case has been registered where any crime has been reported against the minority community.

That the field units have further reported that:-

- (i) Necessary instructions have been issued to all the SHO's, PCR's and other Unit Incharges to ensure security of Christian community and its religious places (churches).*
- (ii) Special checking of CCTV cameras and security measures put in place at churches and other religious places is conducted periodically and regularly by gazetted officers of police.*
- (iii) Coordination is made with the management of the churches to periodically review the security measures put in place.*
- (iv) Adequate security arrangements are made and adequate police force and anti-sabotage units are deployed to ensure that no untoward incident occurs at religious programs organized by Christian community.*
- (v) The issue of security to these places is regularly discussed in the crime and law & order meetings held by the District Police Chiefs. Necessary instructions are issued to SHO's and other officers to ensure safety and security of the Christian community.*
- (vi) The security of the churches is ensured by deploying PCR vans which patrol the areas in and around the churches.*
- (vii) Phone numbers of Zail Officers have been shared with the managements of the churches to ensure speedy communication in case any need arises with respect to security of the churches.*
- (viii) The management of churches have been asked to install*



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- CCTV cameras, if not done till date.*
- (ix) Continuous security surveillance of churches and other religious institutions related to the Christian community. The PCR/Rural Rapid Response Teams ensure security of churches in their respective areas.*
- (x) Adequate police force is deployed at religious congregations on every Sunday's to keep a check on anti- social elements who may disturb peace and harmony of the area.*
- (xi) The churches and other religious places are covered through Night Domination by police.*
- (xii) Sharp vigil is kept by the police personnel to pre-empt any untoward incident.*
- (xiii) Special check is kept on suspicious persons.*
- (xiv) Technical cells are activated to monitor social media platforms regarding any hate speech video or message by miscreants against Christian community.*

After filing of the above said reply, there has been no counter filed on behalf of the petitioner. Moreover, Counsel for the petitioner is also not appearing since the submission of the reply. It seems that the petitioner has no further subsisting grievance.

The present writ petition is accordingly dismissed for non-prosecution.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

AUGUST 06, 2024
Vishal Sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No