

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CRWP-9008-2024 (O&M)
Date of decision: 30.09.2024

Harpreet Singh Sidhu @ Vicky Bahia and others ...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others ...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present:- Mr. Amrinder Singh Sidhu, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, is for directing the respondents to protect the life and liberty of the petitioners by providing them adequate security.
2. It is submitted in the petition that the petitioners, being family members, are running a consultancy and IELTS Institute under the name of M/s 7 Overseas Immigration Consultancy and IELTS Institute at Bathinda. They are also running two hotels at Bathinda. It is further submitted that on 26.05.2024, petitioner No. 1 had received a Whatsapp call on his number from an unidentified international number, who claimed himself to be Goldy Brar from Lawrence Bishnoi Gang. The said person demanded ransom amount of Rs. 1 crore and in case, petitioner No. 1 fails to give him the said amount of money or report the matter to the police, the said gang would cause maximum harm to him as well as to his family members. Subsequently, also he had received Whatsapp

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call from international number, which he did not pick up. Then on 05.06.2024, he had received a voice message on Whatsapp, wherein he was extended threat and demand of ransom money was reiterated. He had moved a representation before the Senior Superintendent of Police, Bathinda, two security personnel were deployed to protect the petitioners but after 8-9 days, one security personnel was withdrawn. The petitioners have again moved a representation before respondent No. 4 on 20.09.2024 for providing adequate security to them but no action has been taken thereon.

3. On 17.09.2024, the following order was passed by this Court:

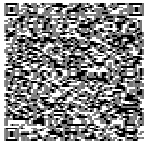
“Learned State counsel who has appeared on advance notice of the petition, submits that as per instructions received by her, one security officer has already been provided to the petitioner on receipt of representation dated 20.08.2024. With regard to existing threat perception and need to provide more security officers to the petitioner, she seeks time to have instructions and to file detailed reply in the matter.

Adjourned to 30.09.2024.

In the meantime, respondent No.4 shall continuously provide security to the petitioner if need so arises and shall also ensure the security of the petitioner by way of enhancing the patrolling visit in the workplace as well as residential vicinity of the petitioner.”

4. Today, reply by way of affidavit of the DSP, City-2, Bathinda has been filed. It is submitted therein and learned State counsel has submitted that a detailed inquiry was conducted on the representation dated 20.09.2024 submitted by the petitioner and it has been found that no threat call was made to the petitioner since June, 2024 by the accused or his associates. However, a

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gunman has been deputed for 24 x 7 protection of the petitioners and PCR has also been put on alert in the area and business places of the petitioners in order to protect their life and liberty.

5. After hearing learned counsel for the parties and going through the reply filed by the respondent-State, the present petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No. 4-Senior Superintendent of Police, Bathinda to depute at least two gunmen armed with advanced weapons for the security of the petitioners, who will perform their duties in shifts to provide 24 x 7 hours security to the petitioners. Respondent No. 4 shall also ensure that continuous patrolling is done in the vicinity, where the petitioners are residing or their businesses are situated.

30.09.2024

Waseem Ansari

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No