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Crl.O.P.No.20370 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 06.02.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Crl.O.P.No.20370 of 2024

Vishnu Priya, M/28 yrs,
S/o. Prabu,
Kamarajar Nagar,
Sanarappatti, Koranampatti Post,
Edappadi Taluk, Salem District.

... Petitioner

/versus/

1. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Salem District.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Jalagandapuram Police Station,
Salem District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Tharamangalam Police Station,
Salem District.

4. The Inspector of Police,
Konganapuram Police Station,
Salem District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 528 of BNSS, pleaded to direct the respondents 2 to 4 not to harass the petitioner and her family under the enquiry of petitioner husband and pass such order.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Kousik
For Respondents : Mr.R.Vinothraja,
Government Advocate (Crl.Side)



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ORDER

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This petition is filed to direct the respondents 2 to 4 not to harass the petitioner and her family under the enquiry of petitioner husband.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the respondents 2 to 4 harassed the petitioner under the guise of enquiry.

3. Mr.R.Vinothraja, Learned Government Advocate for the respondents submits that as against the petitioner, so far, no complaint and as such, there is no question of harassment at the hands of the respondents. Further, submits that the petitioner's husband is a history sheeter and enquiry is pending against the petitioner from the file of 3rd respondent.

4. Heard the learned counsel appearing on either side and perused the materials placed on record.

5. It is the grievance of the petitioners that the respondent police have been harassing them under the guise of an enquiry/investigation and hence, has invoked the inherent powers of this Court under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.



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6. An enquiry into a non cognizable offence or a cognizable offence is the unfettered powers of the Investigation Officers so long as the power to investigate/enquiry into these offences are legitimately exercised within the frame work of Chapter XIII of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Though the Sanhita empowers the Magistrate to be a guardian in all the stages of the police investigation, there is no power envisaging him to interfere with the actual investigation or the mode of investigation. It is in this background that numerous petitions complaining of harassment are being reported and filed before this Court seeking for directions to refrain the police officials from harassing the persons named in a complaint.

7. This Court, exercising its power under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, normally would not interfere with the investigation conducted by a police officer. Nevertheless, it would also not turn a blind eye to instances of harassment by the police under the guise of investigation is brought to its notice.

8. In the present case in hand, the petitioners have complained of



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harassment by the police based on a complaint and seek for this Court's intervention by way of a direction. The term 'harassment' by itself has a very wide meaning and hence, what could be harassment to the petitioners may not be the same to the police officer.

9. In order to circumvent such situations, the following guidelines are issued:

a) While summoning any person named in the complaint or any witness to the incident complained of, the police officer shall summon such person through a written summon under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, specifying a particular date and time for appearing before them for such an enquiry/investigation.

b) The minutes of the enquiry shall be recorded in the general diary/station diary/daily diary of the police station.

c) The police officer shall refrain himself or herself from harassing persons called upon for enquiry/investigation.

d) The guidelines stipulated for preliminary enquiry or registration of FIR by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Lalita Kumari Vs. Government of Uttar Pradesh and others [2014 (2) SCC (1)]** shall be strictly adhered to.



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10. With the above observations and directions, the Criminal

Original Petition stands disposed of.

06.02.2025

Index : Yes/No
Neutral citation : Yes/No
Speaking/non-speaking order

To,

1. The Deputy Superintendent of Police, Salem District.

2. The Inspector of Police,
Jalagandapuram Police Station,
Salem District.

3. The Inspector of Police,
Tharamangalam Police Station,
Salem District.

4. The Inspector of Police,
Konganapuram Police Station,
Salem District.

5. The Public Prosecutor, High Court, Madras.



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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN, J.
bsm

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