

IN THE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT AT
CHANDIGARH.

109

2025:PHHC:172954



CRWP-12143-2025 (O&M).
Date of Decision: 11.12.2025.

RYAZ MASIH @ BISHOP RIAZ MASIH

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

... Respondent(s)

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

Present: Mr. Abhishek Thakur, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Ms. Savi Nagpal, AAG, Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

The present petition has been filed by the petitioner seeking directions to the official respondents to provide adequate and continuous police protection to the petitioner, his family members and the premises of Church of Sukh Bhandar Trust Association (Regd.) village Wadala Banger, Kalanaur, Gurdaspur, in view of the grave threat.

A further prayer has been made to issue directions to the official respondents to expeditiously decide the representation dated 10.10.2025.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner contends that the petitioner is a Bishop of the above said Church namely Church of Sukh Bhandar Trust Association (Regd.) situated in village Wadala Banger, Kalanaur, Gurdaspur. The said Church is serving the Society through religious/social activities and has a large following of more than 02 lakhs devotees. Around 1500-2000 people visit it daily for prayers. He submits that in the year 2023, the petitioner had conducted a press conference criticizing radical elements of the Society including one Amritpal Singh for hurling offensive remarks against Jesus Christ and for promoting divisive and extremist ideologies. Ever since then, the petitioner has been facing persistent threat to his life and liberty through phone calls, messages and video calls from unknown persons. Hence, the petitioner approached this Hon'ble Court vide CRWP-12477-2024 which was disposed of vide order dated 20.12.2024 directing the Senior Superintendent of Police, District Batala, to decide the representation dated 05.12.2024 submitted by the petitioner. The respondents, pursuant thereto, provided protection to the petitioner and deputed two police personnels for remained on duty the security of the petitioner. However, they remained on duty for limited hours without any permanent schedule. The said temporary protection was also eventually withdrawn. The petitioner received the threats from unknown persons again and accordingly, a detailed representation dated 10.10.2025 was submitted to the Director General of Police, and the ADGP (Security), Punjab, for providing permanent protection of at least "Y Category" to the petitioner, his family members and the Church premises. As no action has been taken thereupon, hence, the present petition has been filed.

Pursuant to the order passed by this Court, a status report by way of an affidavit of Gurwinder Singh, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division, Kalanaur, District Gurdaspur on behalf of respondents No.1 to 4 has been filed in the Court today. A copy thereof has been supplied to the counsel for the petitioner. The relevant paras thereof are extracted as under:

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“4. That it is humbly submitted that the petitioner had filed a representation dated 05.12.2024 to the District Police Office, Gurdaspur as well as the office of ADGP/ Security, Punjab for security. The office of Special Director General of Police, Security, Punjab (respondent No 3) had issued a letter to the office of respondent No 4 (SSP/Gurdaspur) vide their office memo No 230/DDSB-5 dated 03.01.2025 regarding threat call in this regard. The matter was enquired by SHO Police Station Kalanaur as well as deponent. During the inquiry, it was revealed that there was no threat to the petitioner, The report was sent to the office of Special Director General of Police, Security, Punjab, vide District Police Office No.32847/Sec dated 12.07.2025.

5 That it is humbly submitted that the Special Director General of Police, Security, Punjab had issued directions to the respondent No 4 (SSP/Gurdaspur) vide their office memo No 34258/DDSB-5 dated 24.07.2025 that "to ensure security Bishop Sh. Riaz Masih Teja. President Church of Sukh Bhandar Trust Association rio Village. Wadala Banger, Kalanaur District Gurdaspur through area Security". As per the directions of the office of the Special Director General of Police, Security, Punjab, the directions issued to the DSP/Kalanaur (Deponent) and SHO, Police Station Kalanaur to ensure compliance. The speaking order has been passed by the respondent No 4 vide this office order No 1851-54-Lit dated 03.12.2025. The copy of

speaking order dated 03.12.2025 is annexed herewith as Annexure R-1.

6. That it is humbly submitted that the fresh threat perception of the petitioner was got conducted by SHO Police Station Kalanaur. During the inquiry, it is revealed that at present, there no threat to the petitioner. However, the respondent No 4 had issued direction to the deponent as well as SHO Police Station Kalanaur to protect the life and liberty of the petitioner through area security. It is further submitted that the patrolling duty has already been provided to the Sukh Bhandar Church and other Church in the area of Police Station Kalanaur every Sunday."

It is evident from the above that not only the representation submitted by the petitioner has been considered but a speaking order on the said representation has also been passed by the respondents on 03.12.2025 wherein it has been specifically recorded that there is no threat to the petitioner and the claim as made by him has been duly verified. However, in terms of the orders issued by the Special Director General of Police, Security, Punjab, precautionary measures have already been taken and the DSP, Kalanaur and SHO, Police Station, Kalanaur, have already been directed to carry out patrolling duty in the area of Sukh Bhandar Church and other Churches in the area of Police Station, Kalanaur, every day.

The averments contained in the aforesaid status report have not been countered by the petitioner. Consequently, this Court finds that there is no other material available on the Court file on the basis of which this Court may find that the conclusions drawn by the respondents are faulty and need

to be interfered with. Once the assessment of threat has already been undertaken by the competent authorities, the same would not warrant interference by this Court.

Consequently, no further directions are required to be passed by this Court. The present petition is accordingly disposed of at this stage.

December 11, 2025.
raj arora

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

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