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

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Gurcharan Kaur Litt and another

...Petitioner

V/s

State of Punjab and others

...Respondent

Date of decision: 05.03.2026**Date of Uploading : 05.03.2026****CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL**

Present: Mr. GPS Ghuman, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Adhiraj Singh Thind, AAG Punjab.

SUMEET GOEL, J. (Oral)

1. The present criminal writ petition has been filed by the petitioners under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India seeking issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus directing respondent Nos.2 to 5 to provide protection to the life and liberty of the petitioners which is allegedly in danger at the hands of private respondent Nos.7 to 12. The petitioners have further sought a direction to the official respondents to decide the representations dated 20.02.2026 bearing UID Nos. 759867 and 759869 (Annexures P-10 and P-11 respectively) within a time-bound manner.

2. The brief factual matrix of the case, as set out in the petition, reflects that the petitioner No.1 is stated to be a British citizen presently residing in District Barnala, Punjab along with petitioner No.2, who is her husband and their minor children. It has been pleaded that certain disputes

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closely related to petitioner No.2. It has been further alleged by the petitioners that the dispute relates primarily to agricultural land situated near their residence. On 20.02.2026 at about 1:30 PM, when petitioner No.1 was leaving her residence, the private respondents allegedly arrived at the disputed land armed with weapons and attempted to forcibly cultivate the land. It has been further alleged that when petitioner No.1 objected to the said acts, she was manhandled and assaulted and certain local residents who came to her rescue were also allegedly attacked. It has been further stated that petitioner No.1 had suffered injuries and was subsequently taken to the hospital. It has been further averred that the petitioners had immediately informed the police authorities through the emergency helpline and had subsequently approached the various senior officials including the Senior Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police. The grievance raised by the petitioners is that despite the seriousness of the incident and the alleged injuries suffered, the police authorities had failed to take any prompt action and had not registered any FIR at the relevant time. According to the petitioners, the private respondents are influential persons having proximity with certain police officials and, therefore, the police authorities were allegedly reluctant to take any action against them. In the backdrop of the aforesaid allegations, the petitioners have submitted that their life and liberty are under threat and the authorities have failed to discharge their statutory duty which necessitated them to approach this Court.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners has argued that despite the occurrence of a grave and violent incident which has allegedly placed the

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life and liberty of the petitioners under serious and continuing threat, the Police authorities have failed to registered an FIR against the private respondents. Learned counsel has iterated that the petitioners are law-abiding citizens and presently residing in the State of Punjab along with their minor children was subjected to a brutal assault at the hands of the private respondents who are stated to be closely related to petitioner No.2. It has been further submitted that on the alleged day of occurrence (i.e. 20.02.2026), the private respondents armed with deadly weapons including swords and firearms, unlawfully entered upon the land of the petitioners and attempted to take forcible possession thereof. When the petitioner No.1 objected to such illegal acts, she was physically assaulted and sustained injuries. According to learned counsel, immediately after the incident, the matter has been reported to the police authorities but the police authorities have failed to register an FIR. Learned counsel has further argued that representations dated 20.02.2026 bearing UID Nos. 759867 and 759869 have been submitted to the competent authorities seeking protection of life and liberty as well as appropriate legal action against the accused persons, but no effective steps have yet been taken. On the strength of the aforesaid submissions, learned counsel has prayed that an appropriate directions be issued to the official respondents to ensure protection of the life and personal liberty of the petitioners as also to take prompt and effective action on the representations submitted by them.

4. During the course of the hearing, learned counsel for the State, on instructions, has apprised the Court that subsequent to the filing of the representations by the petitioners and after due verification of the

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allegations, a criminal case (i.e. FIR No.0029 dated 04.03.2026 under Sections 329(3), 62, 115(2), 126(2), 118(1), 351(2), 191(3) and 190 of BNS, 2023 at police Station Dhanaula, District Barnala) has already been registered against the accused persons with respect to the incident in question. According to learned State counsel, the investigation in the said FIR is in progress in accordance with law. Learned State counsel has further submitted that once the FIR stands registered and the matter is under investigation, the grievance raised by the petitioners does not survive.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the rival parties and have perused the material available on record.

6. The prime prayer made in the petition is for issuance of directions for initiation of appropriate action against the private respondents in view of representation(s) *ibid*. It is not in dispute that subsequent to the filing of the petition, an FIR has already been registered by the competent police authorities with respect to the occurrence dated 20.02.2026 and the matter is presently under investigation. Once the criminal law has been set in motion and the apprehension expressed by the petitioners stands readdressed, in the considered opinion of this Court, no further directions are required to be issued in the present petition.

7. As regards protection of life and liberty of the petitioners, no such accentuating facts/circumstances have been brought forward by the petitioners which may warrant interference by this Court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. It is, thus, indubitable that said apprehension expressed on behalf of the petitioners is nothing but a bald assertion.

However, apart from general allegations of threat, no material has been

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placed before this Court to demonstrate that any immediate danger exists which would require issuance of directions by this Court. The mere existence of a dispute between the parties, particularly where criminal proceedings have already been initiated and are under investigation, cannot, by itself, justify the issuance of a writ of mandamus. It is pertinent to note that once an FIR has been registered and the investigation is underway, the petitioners would always have the remedies available under law in case they have any grievance regarding the manner of investigation. Therefore, at this stage, no exceptional circumstances have been made out which would warrant interference by this Court in exercise of its writ jurisdiction.

7. In view of the prevenient ratiocination, it is ordained thus:

- (i) The instant criminal writ petition is bereft of any merit and is hereby dismissed.
- (ii) Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

March 05, 2026

Ajay

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No