

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH,
CIRCUIT COURT, HYDERABAD**

CP No. S- 166 of 2020

Mst. Irfana and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 111 of 2021

Ms. Afshan and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 427 of 2021

Ms. Samreen and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 450 of 2021

Mst. Reena and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 602 of 2021

Mst. Najma and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 606 of 2021

Mst. Nazia and another v. Province of Sindh and others

CP No. S- 641 of 2022

Mst. Amreen Fatima and another v. SSP Badin and others

Mr. Altaf Shahid Abro, Muhammad Fazil Saand, Advocate for petitioner

M/s. Abdul Hafeez Solangi & Aamir Hazoor Solangi, Advocate for respondents

Mr. Muhammad Ismail Bhutto, Addl.A.G. along with Insp. Sohail Sarwar Jamali on behalf of SSP Hyderabad, Muhammad Aslam Jamali SHO PS Naokot, ASI Harkho PS Badin.

Date of hearing and order: 12.09.2022

ORDER

ADNAN-UL-KARIM MEMON, J. - Through instant petitions, the petitioners have prayed for direction like mandamus directing the official as well as private respondents not to interfere in their peaceful matrimonial life. The petitioners claim to be adults and married to each other of their free will, and for that, they are being threatened and harassed. In view of the common grounds taken by the petitioners in all the captioned petitions, the same are taken up together and disposed of.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that the petitioners are major and have solemnized marriage with each other according to Muslim Rites and Custom.

3. Mr. Muhammad Ismail Bhutto, Addl. A.G. along with police officials have categorically stated that no harassment shall be caused to the petitioners and the

police officials shall act strictly under law. Learned counsel for the petitioners seeks disposal of the aforesaid petition in terms of the statement of learned AAG.

4. I have heard some of the learned counsel for some of the petitioners as well as learned AAG on the subject point of law.

5. I have noticed that the petitioners are not in attendance; and, as per learned counsels, due to alleged harassment caused by official respondents / police officials who in connivance with the private respondents are causing harassment to them. Be that as it may, since they simply seek protection against the police officials, who are allegedly extending serious threats of life to the petitioners; and learned AAG has candidly agreed that no harassment shall be caused to the petitioners; because of such statement, the petitioners are being treated as aggrieved persons within the ambit of Article 199 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

6. Primarily, this is a free and democratic country, and once a person becomes major he or she can marry whosoever he / she likes; if the parents of the boy or girl do not approve such inter-caste or inter-religious marriage the maximum they can do is they can cut off social relations with the son or the daughter, but they cannot give threats or commit or instigate for acts of violence and cannot harass the person who undergoes such inter-caste or inter-religious marriage. I, therefore, direct that the administration / police authorities will see, if any boy or girl who being major undergoes inter-caste or inter-religious marriage with a woman or man who is a major, the couple is neither harassed by anyone nor subjected to threats or acts of violence, and anyone who gives such threats or harasses or commits acts of violence either himself or at his instigation, is taken to task by instituting criminal proceedings by the police against such persons and further stern action is taken against such person(s) as provided by law. However, the above observation is without prejudice to the legal rights of the parties, if any, pending before the competent court of law, so far as other issue of underage and / or second marriage, if any is concerned the same shall be taken care of by the competent forum in accordance with law.

7. In view of the above, by consent of learned A.A.G., the captioned petitions are disposed of with direction that the petitioners are at liberty to live together and no person shall be permitted to interfere in their peaceful living. In case any disturbance is caused in the peaceful living of the petitioners, the petitioners shall approach the concerned Senior Superintendent of Police or Superintendent of Police with a copy of this order, who shall provide immediate protection to the petitioners.

JUDGE