

***IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION***

CRIMINAL WRIT PETITION (STAMP) NO. 26398 OF 2024

ABC & Anr.

... Petitioners

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Ors.

... Respondents

Mr. Mihir Desai, Sr. Advocate a/w Ms. Lara Jesani and
Ms. Rishika Agarwal for the Petitioners

Mrs. P. P. Shinde, A.P.P for the Respondents-State

**CORAM : REVATI MOHITE DERE &
PRITHVIRAJ K. CHAVAN, JJ.
THURSDAY, 19th DECEMBER 2024**

P.C :

1 Heard learned senior counsel for the petitioners and
the learned P.P. for the Respondents-State.

2 Both the petitioners are aged 23 years and in an
interfaith relationship since 2021. The petitioner No. 1, a Hindu
boy and the petitioner No.2, a Muslim girl, fell in love when

they were studying together. Both have decided to get married and accordingly have given a notice to the Sub-Registrar's Office.

3 The grievance of the petitioners is that their respective families are against their interfaith relationship and as such they apprehend danger to their lives. The petitioners therefore seek safe accommodation in Mumbai, till the danger persists from their families. The petitioner No. 1 also seeks police protection since he intends to start his work from 23rd December 2024 and as he apprehends danger to his life.

4 Learned senior counsel for the petitioners states that the petitioner No.1 has made an application to the Mira Road Police Station as well as to the Commissioner of Police, Thane to provide police protection to the petitioner No.1, as the petitioner No. 1 intends to join work from 23rd December 2024 and as he apprehends danger to his life from the respective family members of the petitioners.

5 Learned A.P.P states that the Home Department has issued a Circular dated 18th December 2024 and have created special cells and safe houses for interfaith and inter-caste couples, both married and in a relationship/intending to marry. The said Circular was placed before us. To the said Circular is annexed Annexure `A` wherein, the contact details of the special cells, where the couples who are in such a relationship can contact the police via email, are given. At Annexure `B` are the details of the districts where safe houses are created, the addresses and the names of guest houses so also the contact details/numbers have been mentioned in the said Circular.

6 Learned senior counsel for the petitioners states that the petitioners be permitted to utilize the safe house at serial No.3 of Annexure B attached to the said Circular dated 18th December 2024.

7 Learned A.P.P Mrs. Shinde assures that the said safe house would be made available to the petitioners before 6:00 p.m today. Statement accepted.

8 We are also informed that there is a police guard at the safe house to prevent any untoward incident. We, however, direct the concerned police station in that jurisdiction to provide an additional guard at the said safe house, till the petitioners continue to live in the said safe house. The said guard will be provided from today.

9 The application made by the petitioner No.1 for police protection, which is pending before the concerned police station / Commissioner of Police, Thane, be decided as expeditiously as possible and in any event, within 48 hours from today.

10 Learned A.P.P assures to inform the authorities of the

order passed today so as to enable them to act on the order promptly and to take care of the apprehension of the petitioners, at least till the next date.

11 Stand over to 6th January 2025.

12 All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

PRITHVIRAJ K. CHAVAN, J.

REVATI MOHITE DERE, J.