

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
AT SRINAGAR**

(THROUGH VIRTUAL MODE)

**WP (C) No. 923/2020
CM No. 2054/2020**

Mohammad Farooq Bhat & Anr.

...Petitioner(s)

Through: Mr. M. Amin Bhat, Advocate.

Vs.

Union Territory through Director General of Police Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Through: None

CORAM: **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge**
 (Through Video Conferencing from Jammu wing of the
 High Court)

(ORDER)
19.06.2020

1. The petitioners seek a direction upon official respondents to provide them the police protection as they apprehend danger to their lives from the parents and relatives of petitioner no.2. It is submitted that the petitioners are major and that they have entered into wedlock out of their free will and volition. It is contended that because the petitioners have contracted the marriage against the wishes of parents of petitioner No.2, as such, they are facing harassment at hands of relatives of petitioner no.2. In order to buttress the assertions made in the writ petition, the petitioners have placed on record copies of Nikah Nama, marriage agreement, affidavit and the date of birth certificates.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners refers to the decisions of the Supreme Court in *Lata Singh v. State of U.P. and anr 2006 (5) SCC 475* and *Shakti Vahini v. Union of India & Ors (writ petition (Civil) No. 231 of 2010)* and submitted that in absence of there being any legal impediment, the petitioners are entitled to enter into wedlock as per their choice and the official respondents are duty bound to protect their life and liberty.

3. Perusal of the record annexed with the writ petition reveals that the petitioners are major and they have contracted the marriage according to Muslim Personal Law, rites and customs. Any person having attained the age of majority is entitled to contract the marriage as per his/her wishes and the police is duty bound to protect the life and liberty of such persons. Hence a case is made out for grant of interim relief in favour of the petitioners.

4. Issue notice to the respondents returnable within three weeks. Meanwhile, subject to objections from the other side and till next date before the Bench, the official respondents are directed to provide adequate protection to the petitioners in accordance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in *Lata Singh v. State of U. P. (2006) 5 SCC 475*.

5. List again on 13th July, 2020.

6. Copy of this order be furnished to the learned counsel for the petitioners through *e-mail*.

(Sanjay Dhar)
Judge

Srinagar
19.06.2020
“Bhat Altaf, PS”