

**N.ANAND VENKATESH, J.**

The main allegation that has been made against the accused persons is that they were travelling in an Auto-Rikshaw without following the COVID-19 Protocol and when the same was questioned by the Police, they are said to have abused them and prevented them from doing their public duty. There are totally five accused persons in this case and the petitioner has been ranked as Accused No.4.

2. Mr.S.Ravi, learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing for the respondent Police, on instructions, would submit that Accused Nos.1 to 3 were arrested and remanded to judicial custody and other two persons are absconding.

3. In the considered view of this Court, the Police are already functioning under severe stress due to the pandemic situation. Everyone should realize their responsibility, since virus is taking away precious lives of innocent persons. After all, the Police are only performing their public duty and when they are questioned by someone, who is moving around, when there is a total lockdown, the concerned person is expected to properly

answer the Police. The Police cannot be subjected to abuse and threat by anyone and such acts must be dealt with very sternly. This Court is not going to be lenient when it comes of threatening the Police, when they are performing their duty during this pandemic situation.

4. The petitioner is directed to file an affidavit in the Registry expressing regret for the entire incident and giving an undertaking that he will not involve himself in any such activity in future. That apart, the petitioner must also be made to pay some amount as compensation. Therefore, the petitioner is directed to deposit a sum of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) before the Advocate Clerk's Welfare Association, Madurai-625 023 (Indian Bank Savings Account No.496039124, IFSC Code: IDIB000H040), on or before 11.06.2021.

5. Post this case under the caption for reporting compliance on 14.06.2021. In the meantime the respondent Police shall not arrest the petitioner.

**07.06.2021**

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**Crl.O.P.(MD).No.7252 of 2021**

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