

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

CRIMINAL WRIT PETITION NO. 1166 OF 2015

Mrs. Manju Madanlal (Sankhla) Jain & Anr. ..Petitioners

v/s.

The State of Maharashtra & Anr. ..Respondents

Mr.Omar Khayam Shaikh for the petitioner.

Ms. Devika Nadar for the Respondent No.2..

Mrs.M.H.Mhatre, APP for the Respondent/State.

**CORAM : RANJIT MORE &
SMT. ANUJA PRABHUDESSAI,JJ.
DATED : JULY 13, 2015.**

P.C.

1. Heard. The present petition is filed for quashing FIR No.113 of 2014 registered with Gamdevi Police Station, at the instance of the respondent no.2. The said FIR was subsequently transferred to Malabar Hill Police Station for the offence punishable under Sections 498A, 380, 323, 504, 506 r/w. 34 of IPC.
2. The respondent no.2 had married petitioner no.2. The petitioner no.1 is the sister of the petitioner no.2. The matrimonial dispute gave rise to the filing of subject FIR.

3. Pending investigation, parties settled their dispute amicably and have approached this Court to quash the FIR.

4. Respondent No.2 has filed an affidavit dated 15th June, 2015. In paragraph 6 of the said affidavit, she has stated that she has no objection to allow the petition. In paragraph 5 of the affidavit she has stated that she has started cohabiting with the petitioner no.1 as husband and wife .

5. Respondent No.2 is personally present before the Court. On specific query made by us, she submitted that she has made the said statement in the affidavit on her own free will, without there being any pressure or undue influence. She has further confirmed that she has no objection for quashing the criminal proceedings in question initiated by her against the Petitioner for the offence punishable under sections 498A, 506 & 380 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

6. The Apex Court in B. S. Joshi vs. State of Haryana reported [AIR 2003 SC 1386] has held that in the event of settlement of matrimonial dispute, the FIR under Section 498A can be quashed, even though, the said offence is not compoundable in terms of Section 320 of the Cr.PC. The relevant observations of the Apex Court are contained in Paras 14 and 15 which are reproduced herein below:

“14. There is no doubt that the object of introducing Chapter XX-A containing Section 498A in the Indian Penal Code was to prevent the torture to a woman by her husband or by relatives of her husband. Section 498A was added with a view to punishing a husband and his relatives who harass or torture the wife to coerce her or her relatives to satisfy unlawful demands of dowry. The hyper-technical view would be counter productive and would act against interests of women and against the object for which this provision was added. There is every likelihood that non-exercise of inherent power to quash the proceedings to meet the ends of justice would prevent women from settling earlier. That is not the object of Chapter XXA of Indian Penal Code.

15. In view of the above discussion, we hold that the High Court in exercise of its inherent powers can quash criminal proceedings or FIR or complaint and Section 320 of the Code does not limit or affect the powers under Section 482 of the Code.”

7. Similar view has been taken by the Full Bench of this Court in Abasaheb Yadav Honmane vs. State of Maharashtra [2008(5) LJ.Soft. 46].

8. It can, thus, be seen that the matter has been amicably settled between the parties. From the perusal of complaint, it transpires that the allegations are totally personal in nature. There is no element of public law involved in the crime. In these circumstances, and especially, in view of the law laid down by the Apex Court in the case of Madan Mohan Abbot vs. State of Punjab, [(2008) 4 SCC 582], we find that no purpose would be served by keeping the criminal proceedings pending except burdening the Criminal Courts which are already overburdened.

9. In the light of the principles laid down by the Apex Court in the aforesaid decision as well as in the case of Narinder Singh vs. State of Punjab [2014 AIR SCW 2065] we are of the considered view that there is no impediment in quashing the criminal proceedings.

10. Accordingly, petition is allowed in terms of prayer clause (a).

(ANUJA PRABHUDESSAI, J.)

(RANJIT MORE, J.)