

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

CRIMINAL APPLICATION NO. 689 OF 2015

Farnaz Shaikh

..Applicant

v/s.

The State of Maharashtra & Ors.

..Respondents

Mr. A.B.Ansari for the Applicant.

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

Not on board, on production taken on board.

**CORAM : RANJIT MORE &
SMT. ANUJA PRABHUDESSAI, JJ.
DATED : JULY 28, 2015.**

P.C.

1. Heard learned Counsel for the applicant and the learned APP for the State. The first informant herself has approached this Court for quashing the FIR bearing No. 346 of 2014 registered with Bandra Police Station against the respondent nos.2 to 6 for the offence punishable under Section 498A, 406, 506 r/w. 34 of Indian Penal Code.

2. Learned Counsel for the applicant submits that the marriage between the applicant and the respondent no.2 has dissolved and therefore the applicant does not wish to proceed with the subject FIR.

The applicant has filed affidavit dated 28.7.2015 to that effect.

3. The applicant 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 applicants.

4. 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.”

5. Similar view has been taken by the Full Bench of this Court in Abasaheb Yadav Honmane vs. State of Maharashtra [2008(5) LJ.Soft. 461].

6. It can, thus, be seen that the applicant does not want to pursue to aforesaid complaint. 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.

7. 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.

8. Accordingly, application is allowed in terms of prayer clause (a).

(ANUJA PRABHUDESSAI, J.)

(RANJIT MORE, J.)