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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-163 of 2015

Date of Decision: October 19, 2015

Arveen Kumar @ Gulu and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SABINA

Present: Mr. S.P. Chahar, Advocate for
Mr. S.S. Kainth, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. J.S. Sekhon, AAG Punjab.

SABINA, J.

Petitioners have filed this petition under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for quashing of FIR No.218 dated 26.07.2013, under Section 304-A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ('IPC' for short), registered at Police Station Dina Nagar, District Gurdaspur and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that male child born to respondents No.2 and 3 had died due to breathing problem. Moreover, there was no opinion of medical expert that the child had died due to the negligence of the petitioners. However, now parties have amicably settled their dispute.

Learned State counsel on instructions from Assistant Sub Inspector Tara Singh has submitted that there is no opinion of medical expert that the child had died due to negligence on the part of the petitioners.

Vide order dated 06.01.2015, trial Court/Illaq Magistrate was directed to record the statements of the parties and send its report with regard to genuineness of the compromise effected between the parties.

In pursuance to the said order, the Magistrate after recording the statements of the parties has reported that the compromise effected between the parties was without any pressure.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in Kulwinder Singh and others vs. State of Punjab, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court felt that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court or to otherwise secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another 2012 (4) RCR (Crl.) 543, has held as under:-

“57. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power

of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R may be exercised where the offender and victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity etc; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and pre-dominantly civil flavour stand on different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise

with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding."

In the present case, parties have amicably settled their dispute. Even otherwise, there is no opinion of medical expert that the child had died due to negligence on the part of the petitioners. Hence, it would be a debatable issue as to whether offence under Section 304-A IPC is made out or not.

Since the parties have arrived at a compromise and have decided to live in peace, no useful purpose would be served in allowing the criminal proceedings to continue.

Accordingly, this petition is allowed. FIR No.218 dated 26.07.2013, under Section 304-A IPC, registered at Police Station Dina Nagar, District Gurdaspur and all the consequential proceedings, arising therefrom, are quashed.

(SABINA)
JUDGE

October 19, 2015
mahavir