

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

Crl. Misc. No. M-28008 of 2013

Date of decision : - 28.01.2015

Kanwaldeep Kaur

...Petitioner

Versus

Manbir Singh and another

..Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MEHINDER SINGH SULLAR

Present: Ms. Isha Goyal, Advocate
Mr. Sumer Brar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Ravinder Kaur Manaise, Advocate
for the respondents.

Mehinder Singh Sullar, J. (Oral)

The epitome of the facts and material, which needs a necessary mention, for the limited purpose of deciding the core controversy involved in the instant petition and emanating from the record, is that, initially complainant Manbir Singh son of Surjeet Singh-respondent No.1 (for brevity “the complainant”), has instituted a private complaint (Annexure P-1), in which, petitioner-accused Kanwaldeep Kaur widow of Inderjit Singh was summoned to face the trial, for the commission of offences punishable under Sections 420 and 467 IPC, by virtue of impugned summoning order dated 30.11.2006 (Annexure P-2), by the trial Court. Consequently, the petitioner-accused was charge-

sheeted, by means of impugned order dated 11.02.2013 (Annexure P-3) and the case was slated for evidence of the prosecution by the trial Court.

2. During the pendency of the criminal case, good sense prevailed and the parties have amicably settled their disputes, by way of compromise deed dated 17.08.2013 (Annexure P-4), affidavits of complainant and his father dated 17.08.2013 (Annexures P-5 & P-6).

3. Having compromised the matter, the petitioner-accused has preferred the present petition, to quash the impugned complaint (Annexure P-1), summoning order (Annexure P-2), charge-sheet (Annexure P-3) and all other subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, invoking the provisions of Section 482 Cr.PC, *inter-alia*, pleading that now with the intervention of respectable and relatives, the parties have amicably settled their disputes, by virtue of pointed compromise deed (Annexure P-4). The complainant and his father have reiterated the factum of compromise in their respective affidavits (Annexures P-5 & P-6). They have redressed their grievances. They want to live in peace and harmony in future in the society. They are closely related to each other. The complainant has no objection, if the criminal case registered against the petitioner-accused, by means of impugned FIR (Annexure P-1) is quashed. On the strength of aforesaid grounds, the petitioner-accused sought to quash the impugned FIR and all other subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, in the manner depicted hereinabove.

4. During the course of preliminary hearing, the trial Court, was directed to record the statements of all the concerned parties, with regard

to the genuineness and validity or otherwise of the compromise deed (Annexure P-4), by way of order dated 29.09.2014, by this Court.

5. In compliance thereof, the trial Court, having recorded the statements of all the concerned parties, has reported vide its report dated 04.12.2014, that they have amicably settled their disputes. The compromise arrived between them is voluntarily, valid, genuine, without any pressure or coercion.

6. Meaning thereby, it stands proved on record that the parties have amicably settled their disputes, by virtue of compromise deed (Annexure P-4). The factum of compromise is also reiterated by the complainant and his father in their respective affidavits (Annexurs P-5 & P-6) and indicated report of the trial Court. Moreover, learned counsel for the respondents has also acknowledged the factum of compromise.

7. What cannot possibly be disputed here is that, the law with regard to the settlement of such criminal disputes, by means of amicable settlement between the parties is no more *res integra* and is now well-settled.

8. An identical question came to be decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in case **Gian Singh Versus State of Punjab and another.** **2012(4) RCR (Criminal) 543.** Having interpreted the relevant provisions and considered a line of the judgments on the pointed points, it was ruled (para 57) 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 personnel 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.”

Sequelly, the same view was again (recently) reiterated by Hon'ble the Apex Court in case **Narinder Singh and others Vs. State of Punjab and another**, 2014(2) RCR (Criminal) 482.

9. Above being the legal position and the material on record, now the short and significant question, though important, that arises for determination in this petition is, as to whether the present criminal prosecution against the petitioner deserves to be quashed in view of the compromise or not?

10. Having regard to the contentions of the learned counsel, to my mind, it would be in the interest and justice would be sub-served, if the parties are allowed to compromise the matter. Moreover, the learned counsel are *ad idem* that, in view of the settlement of disputes between the parties, the instant petition deserves to be accepted in this context.

11. As is evident from the record that, now with the intervention of respectable and relatives, the parties have amicably settled their disputes, by virtue of pointed compromise deed (Annexure P-4). The complainant and his father have reiterated the factum of compromise in their respective affidavits (Annexures P-5 & P-6). They have redressed their grievances. They want to live in peace and harmony in future in the society. They are closely related to each other. The compromise is stated to be in the benefit, welfare and larger interest of the parties. The complainant has no objection, if the criminal case registered against the petitioner-accused, by means of impugned FIR (Annexure P-1) is quashed. The factum of compromise is also reiterated by the complainant and his father in their respective affidavits (Annexures P-5 & P-6) and indicated report of the trial Court.

12. Therefore, it would be seen that since, the compromise is in the welfare and interest of the parties, so, there is no impediment in translating their wishes into reality and to quash the criminal prosecution to set the matter at rest, to enable them to live in peace and to enjoy the life and liberty in a dignified manner. Hence, to me, the ratio of the law laid down and the bench-mark set out by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Gian Singh's and Narinder Singh's and others cases (supra)**, “mutatis

mutandis” is attracted to the facts of the present case and is the complete answer to the problem in hand. Likewise, the impugned complaint (Annexure P-1), summoning order (Annexure P-2), charge-sheet (Annexure P-3) and all other consequent proceedings arising therefrom, deserve to be quashed in the obtaining circumstances of the case.

13. In the light of the aforesaid reasons, the instant petition is accepted. The impugned complaint (Annexure P-1), summoning order (Annexure P-2), charge-sheet (Annexure P-3) and all other subsequent proceedings arising thereto, are hereby quashed. Consequently, the petitioner-accused is accordingly acquitted of the charges framed against her, in the indicated criminal case, on the basis of compromise, subject to all just exceptions.

January 28, 2015

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(Mehinder Singh Sullar)

Judge