

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

CRM-M No.27029 of 2014

Date of Decision: 04.09.2015

Manu Chopra and others

..... Petitioners

Vs.

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH

Present: Mr. L.M.Gulati, Advocate for the petitioners.

Ms. Rimplejeet Kaur, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab
for respondent No.1/State along with HC Devender Singh.

Mr. Amrik S. Rattniya, Advocate for respondent No.2/Complainant.

JASWANT SINGH, J. (Oral)

Present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is for quashing of FIR No.481 dated 08.10.2008, under Sections 498-A and 406 of the Indian Penal Code, registered with Police Station Civil Lines, Amritsar (**Annexure P-1**) and the subsequent proceedings on the basis of compromise/settlement arrived at between the parties.

The marriage was solemnized on 29.09.1998 at Amritsar. Subsequently, due to the matrimonial dispute, the aforesaid FIR was lodged by the complainant/wife (respondent No.2) namely Priyanka Chopra.

The present petition for quashing of the FIR is filed by the husband and parents-in-law of the complainant-wife. In terms of the settlement, husband and wife have sought a decree of divorce by way of mutual consent and has been granted by learned Addl. District Judge (Ad hoc), Fast Track Court, Amritsar, vide order dated 05.08.2014.

Vide order dated 18.09.2014 and subsequent orders dated 29.11.2014, 03.03.2015 and 08.05.2015, this Court directed the learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court to send report with regard to genuineness of compromise, in pursuance of which, report/letter Nos.909 dated 28.10.2014, 54 dated 27.02.2015 and 213 dated 30.07.2015 have been received from the learned Chief Judicial Magistrate/Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Amritsar, which are taken on record as **Mark 'A' to Mark 'C'** respectively. It is stated in the report that the complainant has arrived at a compromise with the accused-petitioners without any undue influence and pressure.

Learned State Counsel, on instructions from HC Devender Singh, states that all prosecution witnesses have been examined, however, does not have any serious objection to the quashing of the FIR on the basis of the compromise/settlement keeping in view the nature of *lis* between the parties.

Hon'ble Supreme Court in **(2003) 4 SCC 675, B.S Joshi & Others Vs. State of Haryana & Another** has made it explicitly clear in para 15 of its judgment 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 effect the powers under Section 482 of the Code.

A Full Bench of this Court in **Kulwinder Singh and others v. State of Punjab and another, 2007(3) RCR (Criminal) 1052** has held that this Court, in appropriate cases, while exercising powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C., may quash an FIR disclosing the commission of non compoundable offences. The relevant extracts read as under:-

“ The only inevitable conclusion from the above discussion is that there is no statutory bar under the Cr.P.C., which can affect the inherent power of this Court under Section 482. Further, the same cannot be limited to matrimonial cases alone and the Court has the wide power to quash the proceedings even in non-compoundable offences notwithstanding the bar under Section 320 of the Cr.P.C., in order to prevent the abuse of law and to secure the ends of justice. ”

Hon'ble Apex Court in another case in **J.T 2008(9) S.C 192, Nikhil Merchant Vs. Central Bureau of Investigation & Another** while relying upon its decision in **B.S. Joshi's case (supra)** has also held that in view of the compromise arrived at between the parties, the technicalities should not be allowed to stand in the way in the quashing of criminal proceedings and the continuance of the same after compromise between the parties would be a futile exercise.

Similar views were expressed by Hon'ble the Apex Court in **Madan Mohan Abot v. State of Punjab, 2008(4) SCC 582**, the relevant extract of which is as under:-

“ We need to emphasise that it is perhaps advisable that in disputes where the question involved is of a purely personal nature, the court should ordinarily accept the terms of the compromise even in criminal proceedings as keeping the matter alive with no possibility of a result in favour of the prosecution is a luxury which the courts, grossly overburdened as they are, cannot afford and that the time so saved can be utilised in deciding more effective and meaningful litigation. This is a common sense approach to the matter based on ground of realities and bereft of the technicalities of the law. ”

Keeping in view the above settled legal position and taking into account the fact that both the parties have desired to live in peace and harmony and carry on with their lives without any ill will or rancour by resolving their differences and entering into the aforesaid compromise, it is evident that it is a fit case where there is no impediment in the way of the Court to exercise its inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C., for quashing of the FIR in the interest of justice.

Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and FIR No.481 dated 08.10.2008, under Sections 498-A and 406 of the Indian Penal Code, registered with Police Station Civil Lines, Amritsar (**Annexure P-1**) and all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed.

September 04, 2015

Gagan

(JASWANT SINGH)
JUDGE