

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

Criminal Misc. No. M-33876 of 2013 (O&M)

Date of Decision:02.03.2015

Lakha Singh and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM:HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE RAMESHWAR SINGH MALIK

Present: Mr. P.K.Nagpal, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.D.S.Virk, AAG, Punjab.

Mr.Gurshamshir Singh, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

RAMESHWAR SINGH MALIK J.(ORAL):

The petitioners have approached this Court by way of instant petition under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (for short 'Cr.P.C.') invoking its inherent jurisdiction for quashing of FIR No.16 dated 24.03.2011, under Sections 452, 342, 354, 323, 341 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code ('IPC' for short), registered at Police Station Kabar Wala, District Sri Muktsar Sahib and the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise.

Notice of motion was issued.

In compliance of the order dated 23.05.2014 passed by this

Court, the parties got their statements recorded before the learned

trial court. Consequently, report dated 05.07.2014 sent by Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Malout, has been received which is available on record of the case alongwith the statements of the parties. Learned Magistrate has reported that the parties have made their statements voluntarily and without any pressure. The compromise arrived at between the parties has been found to be a genuine one.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the parties have decided to bury the hatchet and are living peacefully. Learned counsel for the petitioners further submits that continuation of the impugned FIR and subsequent criminal proceedings arising therefrom, are liable to be quashed in the interest of justice.

Having heard the learned counsel for the parties and after going through the record of the case, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case for exercising the inherent jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C., so as to secure the ends of justice. It is so said because the parties have arrived at an out of Court settlement by way of compromise (Annexure P-2). The compromise is without any pressure and a genuine one. In such a situation, continuation of the prosecution would result in sheer abuse of process of law.

The view taken by this Court finds support from the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Shiji @ Pappu and others versus Radhika and another, 2012 (1) RCR (criminal) 9** and also from the larger Bench judgment of this Court in **Kulwinder Singh and others versus State of Punjab and another reported as 2007 (3) RCR (criminal) 1052**. The observations made by the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in para 13 of the judgment in Shiji's case (supra), which can be gainfully followed in the present case, read as under:

“It is manifest that simply because an offence is not compoundable under Section 320 IPC is by itself no reason for the High Court to refuse exercise of its power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. That power can in our opinion be exercised in cases where there is no chance of recording a conviction against the accused and the entire exercise of a trial is destined to be an exercise in futility. There is a subtle distinction between compounding of offences by the parties before the trial Court or in appeal on one hand and the exercise of power by the High Court to quash the prosecution under Section 482 Cr.P.C. on the other. While a Court trying an accused or hearing an appeal against conviction, may not be competent to permit compounding of an offence based on a settlement arrive at between the parties in cases where the offences are not compoundable under Section 320, the High Court may quash the prosecution even in cases where the offences with which the accused stand charged are non-compoundable. The inherent powers of the High Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. are not for that purpose controlled by Section 320 Cr.P.C.

Having said so, we must hasten to add that the plenitude of the power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. by itself, makes it obligatory for the High Court to exercise the same with utmost care and caution. The width and the nature of the power itself demands that its exercise is sparing and only in cases where the High Court is, for reasons to be recorded, of the clear view that continuance of the prosecution would be nothing but an abuse of the process of law. It is neither necessary nor proper for us to enumerate the situations in which the exercise of power under Section 482 may be justified. All that we need to say is that the exercise of power must be for securing the ends of justice and only in cases where refusal to exercise that power may result in the abuse of the process of law. The High court may be justified in declining interference if it is called upon to appreciate evidence for it cannot assume the role of an appellate court while dealing with a petition under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Subject to the above, the High Court will have to consider the facts and circumstances of each case to determine whether it is a fit case in which the inherent powers may be invoked.”

satisfied itself that the compromise arrived at between the parties is a genuine one. They have got their statements recorded voluntarily before the learned trial court. In view of the genuine compromise arrived at between the parties and also in view of the report received from the learned trial court, this Court has no hesitation to conclude that the continuation of the prosecution any further would be nothing but sheer abuse of the process of law. It would result in wastage of valuable time of the Court because no chance of conviction is left.

In the totality of the facts and circumstances of the present case, noted above, coupled with the reasons aforementioned and to secure the ends of justice, FIR No.16 dated 24.03.2011, under Sections 452, 342, 354, 323, 341 read with Section 34 IPC, registered at Police Station Kabar Wala, District Sri Muktsar Sahib and the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, are ordered to be quashed.

Instant petition stands allowed.

(Rameshwar Singh Malik)
Judge

02.03.2015
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