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

CRM-M-33057 of 2014

Date of Decision: November 20, 2015

Gurwinder Singh and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SABINA

Present: Mr. Sandeep Saini, Advocate for
Mr. Siddharth Gupta, 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.104 dated 20.08.2013, under Sections 420, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ('IPC' for short), registered at Police Station Dayalpura, District Bathinda and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that parties have amicably settled their dispute.

Vide order dated 21.11.2014, trial Court 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 trial Court after recording the statements of the parties has reported that complainant Amarjit Singh has voluntarily arrived at a compromise with the accused Bhagwan Singh, Gurwinder Singh

and Mohan Singh.

Statement of the complainant Amarjit Singh recorded by the trial Court reads as under:-

"Statement of Complainant Amarjit Singh aged about 47 years son of Kapoor Singh resident of Village Burj Ladha Singh Wala, Tehsil Phul, District Bathinda.

ONSA

State that a compromise has been entered between me and accused with the intervention of respectable persons and I do not want to continue my case against the accused persons Bhagwan Singh son of Fouja Singh, Gurwinder Singh son of Bhagwan Singh and Mohan Singh in FIR No.104/20.08.2013, P.S. Dialpura, under Sections 420, 120-B IPC. Now there is no dispute between me and accused of any kind. I have no objection if the FIR No.104/20.08.2013, P.S. Dialpura, Under Section 420, 120-B IPC is quashed against the above mentioned accused persons. Attested copy of my identity card is Ex.Cx."

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.”

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.104 dated 20.08.2013, under Sections 420, 120-B IPC, registered at Police Station Dayalpura, District Bathinda and all the consequential proceedings, arising therefrom, qua all the accused, are quashed.

(SABINA)
JUDGE

November 20, 2015
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