

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

Date of decision:25.08.2015.

Pankaj Arora and others

.....Petitioners

v.

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH

Present:- Ms.Gurpreet Randhawa,Advocate for the petitioners
Mr.Kirat Singh Sidhu,Deputy Advocate General
for State of Punjab

Jaswant Singh,J.(Oral)

Prayer is for quashing FIR No.24 dated 6.2.2015 for the offences under Section 420/120-B IPC, PS Sadar,Amritsar (P-1) and all consequent proceedings arising therefrom in view of compromise dated 18.2.2015 arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 27.3.2015 while issuing notice of motion parties were directed to appear before the learned trial Court/Illaq Magistrate for recording their statements with regard to compromise. The learned trial Court/Illaq Magistrate was directed to record the statements of both sides to its satisfaction to know the genuineness of the compromise and that statements are not a result of any pressure or coercion in any manner.

Now vide his report dated 5.5.2015 learned ACJM,Amritsar

has reported that statements of complainant and that of accused were recorded and that he is satisfied that the parties have made an amicable settlement and have recorded their statements in the Court without any fear, apprehension, undue influence or coercion and that the compromise is genuine, voluntary and out of free will of the parties. It is further reported that no other case is pending against the parties.

Hon'ble Supreme Court in **(2003)4 SCC 675, B.S.Joshi and others v State of Haryana and 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 extract reads 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) SC 192 Nikhil Merchant v Central Bureau of Investigation and 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.24 dated 6.2.2015 for the offences under Section 420/120-B IPC, PS Sadar,Amritsar (P-1) and all consequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed.

25.08.2015.
joshi

(Jaswant Singh)
Judge