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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

Judgment delivered on: 8th September, 2015

+ CRL.M.C. 3672/2015

SADDAM AND ORS

..... Petitioners

Represented by: Mr. Urooj Ahmad Khan
and Mr. M. Shah, Advs.

versus

STATE NCT OF DELHI AND ORS

..... Respondents

Represented by: Mr. Izhar Ahmed, APP for
State with SI Prempal Singh, PS-Seemapuri.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURESH KAIT

SURESH KAIT, J. (Oral)

Crl. M.A.13029/2015 (for exemption)

Exemptions allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

Accordingly, the application is allowed.

+ **CRL.M.C. 3672/2015**

1. Vide the present petition; petitioners seek directions thereby quashing of FIR No. 856/2014 registered at PS-Seema Puri for the offences punishable under Sections 308/34 IPC against them.

2. Learned Counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioners submits that aforesaid case was registered on the complaint of respondent no.2 due to a scuffle took place between the petitioners and respondent nos. 2 to 5 and a cross case being FIR 855/2014, under Sections 308/34 IPC was also registered against respondent no. 2 to 5

in the same Police Station.

3. Ld. Counsel submits that both the parties are living in the same locality and due to the intervention of the common friends and respectable members of the Society they have compromised the matter thereafter. Thus, respondent nos. 2 to 5 do not want to pursue the case further against the petitioners.

4. Respondent nos.2 to 5 are personally present in the Court. They have been identified by SI Prempal Singh, PS-Seema Puri, Investigating Officer of the Case. Respondent nos. 2 to 5 submit that in order to maintain peace and brotherhood in the Society, they have settled the disputes with the petitioners and do not want to pursue the case further against them and if the present petition is allowed, they have no objection.

5. On the other hand, Learned Additional Public Prosecutor appearing on behalf of the State submits that after investigation Police has filed the chargesheet, however the charges are yet to be framed. Since, respondent nos. 2 to 5 have amicably settled the issue with the petitioners and do not want to press the case against them, the state has no objection, if the present petition is allowed.

6. Undisputedly, offence punishable under Section 308 IPC is not compoundable; however, considering the facts and circumstances of the case and in exercise of the inherent powers under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, this Court has power to accept the compromise.

7. In view of the overall circumstances; and looking to the pronouncements of the Supreme Court in ***Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and Another***¹, which has referred to a number of matters for the proposition that even a non-compoundable offence can also be quashed on the ground of a settlement agreement between the offender and the victim, if the circumstances so warrant; and also ***Narinder Singh & Ors. Vs. State of Punjab & Anr.***², wherein the Supreme Court held as follows:-

“29. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we sum up and lay down the following principles by which the High Court would be guided in giving adequate treatment to the settlement between the parties and exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code while accepting the settlement and quashing the proceedings or refusing to accept the settlement with direction to continue with the criminal proceedings:

29.1 Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

(i) ends of justice, or

¹ (2012) 10 SCC 303

² (2014) 6 SCC 466

(ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court.

While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. *Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for the offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.*

29.4. *On the other hand, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.*

29.5. *While exercising its powers, the High Court is to examine as to whether the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal cases would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases.*

29.6. *Offences under Section 307 IPC would fall in the category of heinous and serious offences and therefore are to be generally treated as crime against the society and not against the individual alone. However, the High Court would not rest its decision merely because there is a mention of Section 307 IPC in the FIR or the charge is framed under this*

provision. It would be open to the High Court to examine as to whether incorporation of Section 307 IPC is there for the sake of it or the prosecution has collected sufficient evidence, which if proved, would lead to proving the charge under Section 307 IPC. For this purpose, it would be open to the High Court to go by the nature of injury sustained, whether such injury is inflicted on the vital/delegate parts of the body, nature of weapons used, etc. Medical report in respect of injuries suffered by the victim can generally be the guiding factor. On the basis of this prima facie analysis, the High Court can examine as to whether there is a strong possibility of conviction or the chances of conviction are remote and bleak. In the former case it can refuse to accept the settlement and quash the criminal proceedings whereas in the latter case it would be permissible for the High Court to accept the plea compounding the offence based on complete settlement between the parties. At this stage, the Court can also be swayed by the fact that the settlement between the parties is going to result in harmony between them which may improve their future relationship.

29.7. While deciding whether to exercise its power under Section 482 of the Code or not, timings of settlement play a crucial role. Those cases where the settlement is arrived at immediately after the alleged commission of offence and the matter is still under investigation, the High Court may be liberal in accepting the settlement to quash the criminal proceedings/investigation. It is because of the reason that at this stage the investigation is still on and even the charge-sheet has not been filed. Likewise, those cases where the charge is framed but the evidence is yet to start or the evidence is still at infancy stage, the High Court can show benevolence in exercising its powers favourably, but after prima facie assessment of the circumstances/material mentioned above. On the other hand, where the prosecution

evidence is almost complete or after the conclusion of the evidence the matter is at the stage of argument, normally the High Court should refrain from exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code, as in such cases the trial court would be in a position to decide the case finally on merits and to come to a conclusion as to whether the offence under Section 307 IPC is committed or not. Similarly, in those cases where the conviction is already recorded by the trial court and the matter is at the appellate stage before the High Court, mere compromise between the parties would not be a ground to accept the same resulting in acquittal of the offender who has already been convicted by the trial court. Here charge is proved under Section 307 IPC and conviction is already recorded of a heinous crime and, therefore, there is no question of sparing a convict found guilty of such a crime.”

8. Both the parties are present in the Court today, approbate to the settlement dated 17.07.2014 and undertake to remain bound by the same.

9. As discussed above, offence punishable under Section 308 IPC is not compoundable being of serious nature, however, if the Court feels that continuation of criminal proceedings will be an exercise in futility and justice in this case demands that the dispute between the parties is put to an end and peace is restored, it can order for quashing of the FIR or criminal proceedings as it is the duty of the Court to prevent continuation of unnecessary judicial process.

10. In view of the settlement arrived at between the parties, statement of respondent nos. 2 to 5 and the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the cases of **Gian Singh** (*supra*) and

Narinder Singh (*supra*) and in the facts and circumstances as noted above, I am of the considered opinion that this matter deserves to be given a quietus as continuance of proceedings arising out of the FIR in question would be an exercise in futility.

11. Consequently, FIR No. 856/2014 registered at PS-Seema Puri for the offences punishable under Sections 308/34 IPC and all proceedings emanating therefrom, are hereby quashed.

12. In view of the above, the present petition is allowed.

13. A copy of this order be given *dasti* to the learned counsel for the parties.

SURESH KAIT, J

SEPTEMBER 08, 2015

jg