

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

Criminal Misc. No. M-42185 of 2015

Date of Decision:-22.3.2016

Major Singh and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARI PAL VERMA

1. *Whether reporters of local newspapers may be allowed to see judgment?*
2. *To be referred to reporters or not?*
3. *Whether the judgment should be reported in the Digest?*

Present:- Mr. Vivek Salathia, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. P.S. Madahar, AAG Punjab.

Mr. Vikas Gupta, Advocate
for respondents No.2 and 3.

HARI PAL VERMA J.(Oral)

Prayer in the present petition is for quashing of Complaint (Annexure P-1) bearing No.46 dated 21.8.2009 under Sections 326, 323, 452, 148 and 149 IPC, P.S. Valtaha, District Tarn Taran and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom including judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated

29.3.2014 (Annexure P-2) passed by the Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Patti, on the basis of compromise dated 23.11.2015 (Annexure P-3).

The learned Magistrate vide judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 29.3.2014 convicted the petitioners as under :-

<i>Name of convict</i>	<i>Under Section</i>	<i>Sentence to undergo</i>	<i>Fine</i>	<i>In default of payment of fine</i>
Tota Singh	148 IPC	1 year RI	--	--
	452 IPC	2 years RI	1000/-	One month
	326 IPC	3 years RI	1000/-	One month
Major Singh, Malook Singh, Manjit Kaur and Bittu	148 IPC	1 Year RI each	----	----
	452 IPC	2 years each	1000/- each	One month
	326 IPC read with Section 149 IPC	3 years each	1000/- each	One month

Quashing of the aforesaid FIR and setting aside of the impugned judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 29.3.2014 passed by learned trial Court is sought on the basis of compromise dated 23.11.2015 as entered between the parties during the pendency of the appeal before the learned Appellate Court, Tarn Taran.

Vide order dated 14.1.2016, this Court has directed the parties to appear before the learned Appellate Court to get

their statements recorded and the learned Appellate Court was directed to forward a report about the genuineness of the compromise to this Court.

In compliance of the order dated 14.1.2016, the parties have appeared before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran on 5.2.2016 and 19.2.2016 for getting their statements recorded.

The report dated 10.3.2016 received from the learned Additional District & Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran, reveals that the compromise has been effected between the parties without any undue pressure.

The statement made by complainant Nachhatar Singh son of Lal Singh before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran, on 5.2.2016 reads as under :-

“Stated that I have compromised the matter with the accused Major Singh son of Malook Singh, Tota Singh son of Major Singh, Malook Singh son of Harnam Singh, Manjeet Kaur wife of Major Singh, Bitu son of Chanan Singh, all residents of village Gharyala, with the intervention of respectables of our village as we both parties are belong to same village. And accused Satta Singh son of Sema Singh r/o Village Gharyla has declared proclaimed offender in this complaint case. That compromise is for the benefit of me and accused party as we want to live peacefully. I have no objection if judgment and order dated 29.3.2014

passed by the Court of Sh. Pritpal Singh, SDJM, Patti be quashed being compromised. Compromise is without any coercion, duress and the same is for the benefit of both the parties. I was injured and complainant in this case. I have brought up my Voter Card today in the Court. Same is Ex.PA.”

Learned counsel appearing for respondents No.2 and 3 has fairly conceded the factum of compromise entered into between the parties. He has submitted that the compromise effected between the parties is genuine and without any pressure or coercion.

Learned State counsel does not dispute the aforesaid factual position, rather admit the factum of compromise effected between the parties.

Heard.

This Court in the case of ***Sube Singh and another Versus State of Haryana and another 2013(4) RCR (Criminal) 102*** has considered the compounding of offences at the appellate stage and has observed that even when appeal against the conviction is pending before the Sessions Court and parties entered into a compromise, the High Court is vested unparalleled power under Section 482 Cr.PC to quash criminal proceedings at any stage so as to secure the ends of justice and has observed as under:

“15. *The refusal to invoke power under Section*

320 CrPC, however, does not debar the High Court from resorting to its inherent power under Section 482 Criminal Procedure Code and pass an appropriate order so as to secure the ends of justice.

*16. As regards the doubt expressed by the learned Single Judge whether the inherent power under Section 482 Criminal Procedure Code to quash the criminal proceedings on the basis of compromise entered into between the parties can be invoked even if the accused has been held guilty and convicted by the trial Court, we find that in **Dr. Arvind Barsaul etc. v. State of Madhya Pradesh & Anr., 2008(2) R.C.R. (Criminal) 910 : (2008)5 SCC 794**, the unfortunate matrimonial dispute was settled after the appellant (husband) had been convicted under Section 498A Indian Penal Code and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and his appeal was pending before the first appellate court. The Apex Court quashed the criminal proceedings keeping in view the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and in the interest of justice observing that "continuation of criminal proceedings would be an abuse of the process of law" and also by invoking its power under Article 142 of the Constitution. Since the High Court does not possess any power akin to the one under Article 142 of the Constitution, the cited decision cannot be construed to have vested the High Court with such like unparallel power.*

17. The magnitude of inherent jurisdiction exercisable by the High Court under Section 482

Criminal Procedure Code with a view to prevent the abuse of law or to secure the ends of justice, however, is wide enough to include its power to quash the proceedings in relation to not only the non-compoundable offences notwithstanding the bar under Section 320 Criminal Procedure Code but such a power, in our considered view, is exercisable at any stage save that there is no express bar and invoking of such power is fully justified on facts and circumstances of the case.

18. xxx xxx

19. xxx xxx

20. xxx xxx

21. In the light of these peculiar facts and circumstances where not only the parties but their close relatives (including daughter and son-in-law of respondent No.2) have also supported the amicable settlement, we are of the considered view that the negation of the compromise would disharmonize the relationship and cause a permanent rift amongst the family members who are living together as a joint family. Non-acceptance of the compromise would also lead to denial of complete justice which is the very essence of our justice delivery system. Since there is no statutory embargo against invoking of power under Section 482 Criminal Procedure Code after conviction of an accused by the trial Court and during pendency of appeal against such conviction, it appears to be a fit case to invoke the inherent jurisdiction and strike down the proceedings subject to certain safeguards.

22. Consequently and for the reasons afore-

stated, we allow this petition and set aside the judgement and order dated 16.03.2009 passed in Criminal Case No. 425-1 of 2000 of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Hisar, on the basis of compromise dated 08.08.2011 arrived at between them and their step-mother respondent No.2 (Smt. Reshma Devi) w/o late Rajmal qua the petitioners only. As a necessary corollary, the criminal complaint filed by respondent No.2 is dismissed qua the petitioners on the basis of above-stated compromise. Resultantly, the appeal preferred by the petitioners against the above-mentioned order dated 16.03.2009 would be rendered infructuous and shall be so declared by the first Appellate Court at Hisar."

*Similarly, in the case of **Baghel Singh Versus State of Punjab 2014(3) RCR (Criminal) 578** whereby the accused was convicted under Section 326 IPC and was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years, the parties entered into compromise during the pendency of the appeal. This Court while relying upon the judgment of **Lal Chand Versus State of Haryana, 2009 (5) RCR (Criminal) 838** and **Chhota Singh Versus State of Punjab 1997(2) RCR (Criminal) 392** allowed the compounding of offence in respect of offence under Section 326 IPC at the appellate stage with the observation that it will be a starting point in maintaining peace between the parties, such offence can be compounded.*

In view of the above, when the matter has been compromised between the parties with the intervention of respectables, no useful purpose would be served to continue with the proceedings before the Appellate Court.

Therefore, while relying upon the aforesaid judgments and coupled with the fact that the parties have entered into a compromise and learned Additional Sessions Judge, Tarn Taran has submitted his report in support of genuineness of the compromise, the present petition is allowed and the Complaint (Annexure P-1) bearing No.46 dated 21.8.2009 under Sections 326, 323, 452, 148 and 149 IPC, P.S. Valtaha, District Tarn Taran and all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom qua the petitioners is quashed, on the basis of compromise dated 23.11.2015 (Annexure P-3).

Consequently, the impugned judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 29.3.2014 passed by the learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Patti, are set aside. The appeal preferred by the petitioners against the aforesaid judgment and order is rendered infructuous and shall be declared so by the first Appellate Court.

March 22, 2016
Vijay Asija

(**HARI PAL VERMA**)
JUDGE