

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

+ CRL.M.C. 4595/2014

Date of Decision : February 05th, 2016

MANAS AHUJA Petitioner

Through Mr.Gurpreet Singh, Adv.

versus

STATE(NCT OF DELHI) & ORS Respondent

Through Mr.Vinod Diwakar, APP for the State
Respondent no.2 & 3 in person.

**CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE P.S.TEJI**

P.S.TEJI, J.

1. The present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. has been filed by the petitioner, namely, Mr. Manas Ahuja for quashing of FIR No.86/2013 dated 17.05.2013, under Sections 279/337/304A IPC registered at Police Station Mandir Marg on the basis of the settlement arrived between the petitioner and the respondent nos. 2 & 3, namely, Mr. Laxman Ram and Ms. Vidyawati Devi, respectively.

2. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent-State submitted that the respondent nos.2 & 3, present in the Court have been identified to be the victims in the FIR in question by their counsel.

3. The factual matrix of this present case is that the FIR in question was lodged by the complainant, namely, Harmugam on the allegation that on 13.05.2013, he along with his friend Hira Lal s/o Lakshman Ram were going to the RML hospital. When they were crossing the road, while the complainant was stopping the traffic with his hand signals, a driver-petitioner hit the friend of the complainant i.e. Hira Lal as he was driving rashly with great speed. Hira Lal suffered injuries on his leg and backbone. Thereafter, the family of the petitioner started putting pressure on Hira Lal and his family members to not take any legal action against the petitioner due to which no action was taken by him against the petitioner on 13.05.2013. Thereafter, the complainant lodged the FIR in question.

The police officials have filed a charge sheet and the matter is pending before the Ld. M.M., Patiala House Courts, Delhi. The respondent nos. 2 & 3 along with other legal heirs of the deceased Hira Lal had also filed MACT claim petition bearing no. 192/2013 and they were awarded compensation of Rs. 15,80,640/- vide an award dated 13.05.2014. During the pendency of the said proceedings, the parties entered into an out of Court settlement.

4. Respondent Nos.2 & 3 present in the Court, submitted that the dispute between the parties has been amicably resolved. As per the settlement, both the parties have settled the dispute and have agreed that they do not want to pursue the case any further against the petitioner. It has been agreed that the petitioner shall pay an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- to the respondent nos. 2 & 3 towards full and final settlement of all their claims against the petitioner arising out of FIR in question. It is agreed between the parties that after the receipt of the full settlement amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- from the petitioner, neither the respondent nos. 2 & 3, nor other legal heirs i.e. Dharmender, Jitender, Poonam and Amrita (being brother and sister of the deceased Hira Lal) or anybody else on behalf of the deceased Sh. Hira Lal, shall be left with any claim whatsoever against the petitioner. It is also agreed by the parties that the respondent nos. 2 & 3 shall co-operate with the petitioner in proceedings for the quashing FIR in question before this Court. Respondent nos. 2 & 3 affirmed the contents of the aforesaid settlement and of their affidavits dated 27.09.2014. In the affidavits, the respondent nos.2 & 3 have stated that they have no objection if the FIR in question is quashed. All the disputes and

differences have been resolved through mutual consent. Now no dispute with petitioner survives and so, the proceedings arising out of the FIR in question be brought to an end. Statements of the respondent Nos.2 & 3 have been recorded in this regard in which they stated that they have entered into a compromise with the petitioner and have settled all the disputes with him. They further stated that they have no objection if the FIR in question is quashed.

5. In ***Gian Singh v. State of Punjab (2012) 10 SCC 303*** Apex Court has recognized the need of amicable resolution of disputes in cases like the instant one, by observing as under:-

“61. 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 proceedings or continuation of criminal proceedings would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and the 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 the affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceedings.”

6. The aforesaid dictum stands reiterated by the Apex Court in a recent judgment in ***Narinder Singh v. State of Punjab (2014) 6 SCC 466***. The relevant observations of the Apex Court in ***Narinder Singh (Supra)*** are as under:-

“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
- (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.

7. The inherent powers of the High Court ought to be exercised to prevent the abuse of process of law and to secure the ends of justice. The respondent nos.2 & 3 agreed to the quashing of the FIR in question and have stated that the matter has been settled out of their own free will. As the matter has been settled and compromised amicably, so, there would be an extraordinary delay in the process of law if the legal proceedings between the parties are carried on. So, this Court is of the considered opinion that this is a fit case to invoke the jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to prevent the abuse of process of law and to secure the ends of justice.

8. The incorporation of inherent power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is meant to deal with the situation in the absence of express provision of law to secure the ends of justice such as, where the process is abused or misused; where the ends of justice cannot be secured; where the process of law is used for unjust or unlawful object; to avoid the causing of harassment to any person by using the provision of Cr.P.C. or to avoid the delay of the legal process in the delivery of

justice. Whereas, the inherent power is not to be exercised to circumvent the express provisions of law.

9. It is settled law that the inherent power of the High Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. should be used sparingly. The Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of ***State of Maharashtra through CBI v. Vikram Anatrai Doshi and Ors.*** MANU/SC/0842/2014 and in the case of ***Inder Singh Goswami v. State of Uttaranchal*** MANU/SC/0808/2009 has observed that powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. must be exercised sparingly, carefully and with great caution. Only when the Court comes to the conclusion that there would be manifest injustice or there would be abuse of the process of the Court if such power is not exercised, Court would quash the proceedings.

10. It is a well settled law that where the High Court is convinced that the offences are entirely personal in nature and therefore do not affect public peace or tranquillity and where it feels that quashing of such proceedings on account of compromise would bring about peace and would secure ends of justice, it should not hesitate to quash them. In such cases, pursuing prosecution would be waste of time and energy. Non-compoundable offences are basically an obstruction in

entering into compromise. In certain cases, the main offence is compoundable but the connected offences are not. In the case of ***B.S. Joshi and others v. State of Haryana and another*** 2003 (4) SCC 675 the Hon'ble Apex Court observed that even though the provisions of Section 320 Cr.P.C. would not apply to such offences which are not compoundable, it did not limit or affect the powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. The Hon'ble Apex Court laid down that if for the purpose of securing the ends of justice, quashing of FIR becomes necessary, section 320 Cr.P.C. would not be a bar to the exercise of power of quashing. In the nutshell, the Hon'ble Apex Court justified the exercise of powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the proceedings to secure the ends of justice in view of the special facts and circumstances of the case, even where the offences were non-compoundable.

In the light of the aforesaid, this Court is of the view that notwithstanding the fact that the offences under Sections 279/304A IPC are non-compoundable offences, there should be no impediment in quashing the FIR under these sections, if the Court is otherwise satisfied that the facts and circumstances of the case so warrant.

11. In the facts and circumstances of this case and in view of statements made by the respondent Nos.2 & 3, the FIR in question warrants to be put to an end and proceedings emanating thereupon need to be quashed.

12. Accordingly, this petition is allowed and FIR No.86/2013 dated 17.05.2013, under Sections 279/337/304A IPC registered at Police Station Mandir Marg and the proceedings emanating therefrom are quashed against the petitioner.

13. This petition is accordingly disposed of.

(P.S.TEJI)
JUDGE

FEBRUARY 05, 2016
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