

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 23.10.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE M.S.RAMESH

Crl.O.P.No. 21308 of 2017

K.Bhuvaneswari

.. Petitioner/Accused No.4

Vs.

State Rep.by

The Inspector of Police,
XXI Team, CCB, EDF-III,
Commissioner Office,
Vepery, Chennai.

(Crime No.126 of 2017)

.. Respondent/Complainant

PRAYER: Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying to modify the condition imposed in Crl.MP. No. 13974 of 2017 dated 15.09.2017 on the file of the Principal Sessions Judge, Chennai.

For Petitioner : M/s.M.Sundaramurthy

For Respondent : Mr.P.Govindarajan
Additional Public Prosecutor.

O R D E R

The prayer in the present petition is to modify the condition imposed in the order dated 15.09.2017 in Crl.M.P.No.13974 of 2017, directing the petitioner to deposit a sum of Rs.5,00,000/- as pre-condition to the grant of anticipatory bail.

2.Heard Mr.M.Sundaramurthy, learned counsel for the petitioner as well as Mr.P.Govindarajan, learned Additional Public Prosecutor for the respondent.

3.The case of the petitioner is that the learned Principal Sessions Judge, Chennai, by order dated 15.09.2017 in Crl.M.P.No.13974 of 2017, had granted anticipatory bail to the petitioner on condition that the petitioner shall deposit a sum of Rs.5,00,000/- to the credit of the crime number along with other conditions. Since the petitioner could not mobilise the funds, he has come forward with the present petition.

4. This is not a first case where I have come across such onerous conditions being passed, while granting an order of bail or anticipatory bail pending investigation. When there is a procedure prescribed under the Code of Criminal Procedure for receiving a complaint and investigating into the same, it is for the police authorities to take a final decision on the authenticity of the various averments made in the complaint based on the statement of witnesses and other evidences. I am unable to comprehend as to how the Court ordering a bail or anticipatory bail can come to the conclusion that the averments in the complaint is true even before the charge sheet/report is filed. In a case where false or fictitious complaint has been made against an innocent person, would it not amount to grave injustice by directing such a person who has been detained in jail or apprehending arrest to deposit some amount as a pre-condition for grant of bail or anticipatory bail? Furthermore, the Court granting such orders cannot step into the shoes of the Investigating Authorities and assume that the accused had committed an offence and thereby, impose onerous conditions. As a matter of fact, various other cases in which onerous conditions of depositing of title deeds or sureties from Government employees are also being passed. When the Court takes a view that a prima facie case has been made out for the purpose of granting bail or anticipatory bail, by no stretch of imagination, any onerous condition be passed, thereby thwarting and making the order in-executable. The question of the powers of the trial Court imposing onerous condition while granting bail was elaborately discussed in the following judgements:

(i) In Sandeep Jain Vs. National Capital Territory of Delhi (2000 (2) SCC 66) the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that any bail condition which is in the nature of onerous condition, is against law.

(ii) In Ramathal & Others Vs. Inspector of Police & Another (2009 (12) SCC 721) the Hon'ble Supreme Court did not approve a bail condition of the Subordinate Court to deposit huge amount.

(iii) In Sakthivel Vs. Inspector of Police Belukurichi Police Station Namakkal District (2015 (2) MWN (Cr.) 438), this Court held that the bail condition should be executable and it should not be onerous and oppressive in nature.

(iv) In Navaneetha Krishnan Vs. Inspector of Police Natrampalli Police Station Vellore District [2015 (2) MWN (Cr.) 53], this Court had observed that the conditions which are in the nature of and which could not be complied with by the accused, would be like granting

bail by one hand and taking it away by another hand."

5. Likewise, a learned brother Judge of this Court also had dealt on this issue in the case in Sagayam @ Devasagayam Vs. The State of Tamil Nadu, reported in 2017 (3) CTC 291. The relevant portion of the order goes to read as hereunder;-

"55. It is profitable to note the following from the said judgment:

'12. Now 'Bail is the Rule and Jail is the Exception'. Generally grant of bail is to be considered because it is in furtherance of liberty of the individual guaranteed under Article 21, Constitution of India. However, in certain circumstances such as seriousness of the offence alleged, habituality in criminality, tendency of abscondence etc. bail will be refused (see Kalyan Chandra Sarkar vs. Rajesh Ranjan @ Pappu Yadav {2004 (7) SCC 528}; State of U.P. vs. Amarmani Tripathi {2005 (8) SCC 21} Sanjay Chandra vs. C.B.I. {2012 (1) SCC 40} and Arnesh Kumar vs. State of Bihar and Another {2014 (8) SCC 273}.

13. Chapter XXXIII of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 is a self-contained Code dealing with bail and bail bonds. While granting bail, Courts have the power to impose conditions. It is with a view to ensure the availability of the accused during investigation and also during the trial of the case and it is not at all for harassing the accused persons.

14. Grant of bail is an exercise of judicial discretion by the Court based on consideration of several factors. Imposition of bail condition is also part of such exercise. It should be based on sound judicial principles. It should not be arbitrary mechanical. Imposition of bail condition should not be for the sake of imposition of bail-condition.

15. Under the guise of imposition of bail-condition, there shall not be imposition of any onerous condition. Conditions which are in the nature of and which could not be complied with by

the accused would be like granting bail by one hand and taking it away by another hand.

16.Imposition of onerous and stringent conditions amount to denial of bail. Actually, our bail system is not based on any cash system. If it is so then poor people have to spend rest of their life in jail itself. That is not the objective of a bail system. The object of bail is to enable the accused to send him out of jail with an assurance to return to the Court to put up an effective defence.

17.While granting bail, the Court can direct the accused to execute bail bond. As per Section 440 Cr.P.C. the bond amount should not be excessive. When a person so directed to execute the bond either with surety or without surety is not able to furnish the sureties, then under Section 445 Cr.P.C. he has the option to offer cash security. But even then, it must be a reasonable amount. It should not be an arbitrary, excessive amount. It should not be in the nature of deprivation of grant of bail by fixing an heavy amount as surety amount. If heavy amount is directed to be deposited as cash security, the bailee/accused will not be in a position to comply it. If heavy amount is demanded from the Surety, then the bailor will not be forthcoming. And 'haves' will go out while 'have nots' will remain in jail.

18.Reading Sections 440, 441 and 445 Cr.P.C. together, it is clear that straightaway a Court cannot direct the accused to deposit cash security. First of all, the Court has to direct execution of bail bond by the sureties in case if the release is not on his own bond. Only in lieu of that deposit of cash security could be directed (see Section 445 Cr.P.C.).

19.As already stated even if the cash security is ordered under Section 445 Cr.P.C. the Court must pay regard to the circumstances of the case and the amount should not be excessive (see

Section 440 Cr.P.C. Also see State of Mysore vs. H.Venkatarama Kotaiyah (1968 Cr.L.J. 696) Moti Ram and Others vs. State of Madhya Pradesh [(1978) 4 SCC 47] Babu Singh and Others vs. The State of U.P. (AIR 1978 SC 527) Gokul Das vs. The State of Assam (1981 Cr.L.J. 229) Afsar Khan vs. State of Karnataka (1992 Cr.L.J. 1676) Bhikhabhai Udesinh Darbar vs. State of Gujarat [(1998) 1 GLR 315] Parades Patra and Another vs. State of Orissa (1993 II OLR 452) Sandeep Jain vs. National Capital Territory of Delhi [(2000) 2 SCC 66] Amarjit Singh vs. State of NCT of Delhi (JT 2002 (1) SC 291) Sheikh Ayub vs. State of Madhya Pradesh [(2004) 13 SCC 457] Ramathal and Others vs. Inspector of Police and Another [(2009) 12 SCC 721] Amaldoss and others vs. The Inspector of Police Patteeswaram Police Station Thanjavur District 2015 (2) MWN (Cr.) 387 (Cr.L.O.P.(MD) Nos.19196 and 19197 of 2014 dated 5.2.2015) and Sakthivel and Another vs. The Inspector of Police Belukurichi Police Station Namakkal District, 2015 (2) MWN (Cr.) 438 (Cr.L.O.P.Nos.835 and 836 of 2015 dated 4.2.2015).

20. Article 3 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 declares that 'everyone has the right of life, liberty and security of person'. Article 21, Constitution of India 1950 proclaims that 'no one shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except by procedure established by law'. And, Article 6 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 declares that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life'.

21. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India (AIR 1978 SC 597) held that any law, procedure depriving a person's life or liberty, which is 'unjust', 'unreasonable' and 'inequitable' militates against the Constitutional mandate in Article 21, Constitution of India. It is also in abridgment of

human right of accused persons.

22.Thus, directing a poor man to deposit Rs.25 000/- in each case is against Article 21, Constitution of India and Maneka Gandhi (supra) principle and also the said International Covenants, which have been ratified by our country.''

56.In Sundar @ Ashok vs. Inspector of Police, T-16 Nazarathpet Police station (Crl.O.P.No.993 of 2017 dated 18.1.2017) this Court held that Court cannot expect accused or surety to be a propertied person. (Also see Raghubir Singh & Others vs. State of Bihar (1986 SCC (Crl.) 511).

57.In Motiram (supra) and in Raghubir Singh (supra) it was held that the bail condition should not be imposed in such a way that a rich man can go out of the jail on bail while a man who has no money, no property, who is unable to produce such surety shall suffer in jail.

58.Actually, our bail system is not based on any cash system. (See Motiram (supra) Raghubir Singh & Others (supra) Navaneetha Krishnan (supra) and Sundar @ Ashok (supra)."

From the aforesaid legal proposition, it is seen that the original condition imposed, directing the petitioner to deposit Rs.5,00,000/- itself is illegal.

6.In the result, the Criminal Original Petition stands allowed. Consequently, the condition imposed on the petitioner in Crl.M.P.No.13974 of 2017 dated 15.09.2017 directing the petitioner to deposit a sum of Rs.5,00,000/- shall stand deleted and replaced with the sentence, "the petitioner shall execute a bond of undertaking to the tune of Rs.5,00,000/-". All other conditions imposed in the order dated 15.09.2017 in Crl.M.P.No.13974 of 2017 shall remain intact.

Ak

Sd/-

Asst.Registrar

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

To

1.The Principal Sessions Judge,
Sessions court, Chennai
Chennai.

2.The Inspector of Police,
XXI Team, CCB, EDF-III,
Commissioner of Office,
Veperiy, Chennai.

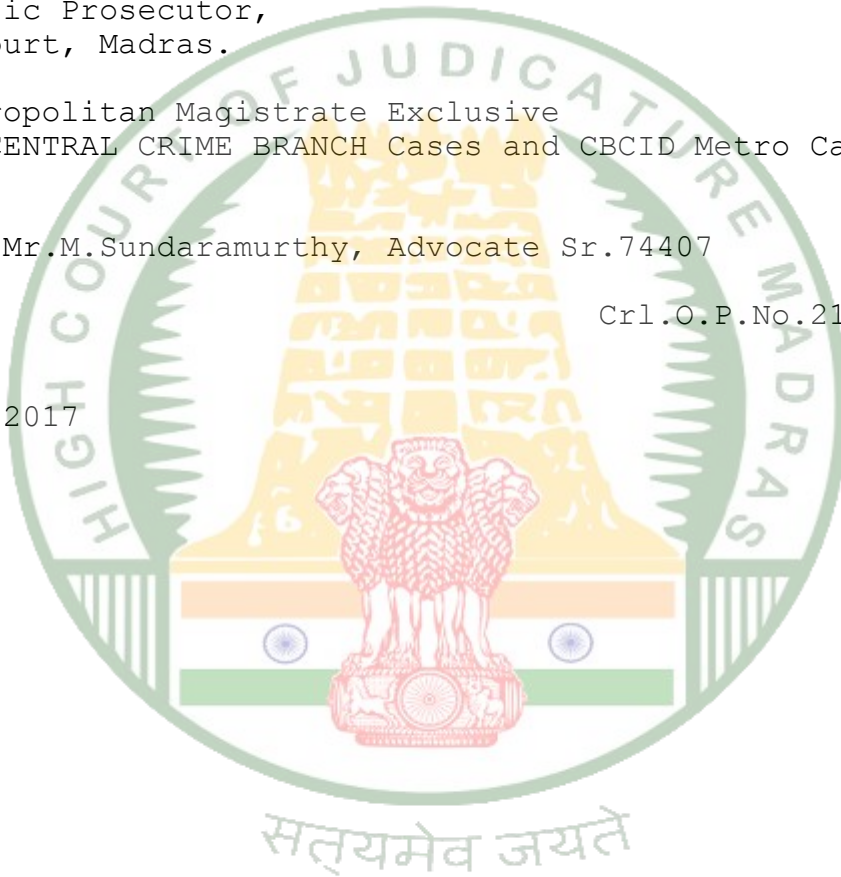
3.The Public Prosecutor,
High Court, Madras.

4 The Metropolitan Magistrate Exclusive
Trial of CENTRAL CRIME BRANCH Cases and CBCID Metro Cases,
Chennai.

+2 Ccs to Mr.M.Sundaramurthy, Advocate Sr.74407

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VG(CO)
RVR 15/11/2017



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