

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

Date of decision: 28.11.2017

1. CRM-M-29714-2017

Santokh Singh and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

2. CRM-M-29718-2017

Harjinder Singh and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Ms. Satwant Mehta, Advocate
for the petitioners (in CRM-M-29714-2017) and
for respondents No.2 to 5 (in CRM-M-29718-2017).

Mr. Jasmandeep, Advocate
for the petitioners (in CRM-M-29718-2017) and
for respondents No.2 to 5 (in CRM-M-29714-2017).

Ms. Rajni Gupta, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J.

By way of these two petitions, the petitioners have prayed for
quashing of FIR No.43 dated 02.05.2017 for the offence punishable under
Sections 307, 323, 324, 148, 149 of the Indian Penal Code ('IPC' for short)

read with Sections 25, 27, 54, 59 of Arms Act, registered at Police Station Harike, District Tarn Taran and cross-version case bearing DDR No.25 dated 03.05.2017 under Sections 326, 323, 324, 325, 148, 149 IPC, registered at Police Station Harike, District Tarn Taran as well as all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise effected between the parties.

Vide order of even date i.e. 17.08.2017 passed in both these petitions, the parties were directed to appear before the trial Court to get their statements recorded with regard to genuineness of the compromise.

Report dated 18.09.2017 in CRM-M-29714-2017 and report dated 30.08.2017 in CRM-M-29718-2017 have been submitted by the Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Patti, wherein it has been reported that statements of the petitioners and respondents No.2 to 5 in both these cases have been recorded and statements made by the parties in the Court reveal that they have voluntarily entered into a compromise and the Court is satisfied that the parties have amicably settled their dispute without any fear, pressure, threat or coercion and out of their free will.

Counsel for the petitioners submits that no other criminal case is pending between the parties and none of the petitioner is a proclaimed offender.

Counsel for the State, on instructions from ASI Satnam Singh, has not disputed the fact that the parties have arrived at a settlement with an intent to give burial to their differences.

I have heard counsel for the parties in both these cases and perused the case file.

As per the Full Bench judgement of this Court in **Kulwinder Singh and others Vs. State of Punjab, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052**, it is held that the High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court feel that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of **Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543**, has held as under:-

“The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R may be exercised where the offender and victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences

under special statutes like Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity etc; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominatingly civil flavour stand on different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. 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 proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and 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 affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

Since the parties have arrived at a compromise and have decided to live in peace, no useful purpose would be served in allowing the criminal proceedings to continue. Since as per allegations levelled in the FIR, a gun shot was fired in the air and no one was injured. Hence, Section 307 IPC is

not made out.

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, both these petitions are allowed and FIR No.43 dated 02.05.2017 for the offence punishable under Sections 307, 323, 324, 148, 149 IPC read with Sections 25, 27, 54, 59 of Arms Act, registered at Police Station Harike, District Tarn Taran and cross-version case bearing DDR No.25 dated 03.05.2017 under Sections 326, 323, 324, 325, 148, 149 IPC, registered at Police Station Harike, District Tarn Taran as well as all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioners.

[ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN]
JUDGE

28.11.2017

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Whether speaking/reasoned Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No