

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA, CHANDIGARH

Date of Decision: 04.08.2017

CRM-M -45376-2016

Jasvir Singh and others

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

CRM-M -1110-2017

Gurdev Singh and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

Coram: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Arvind Singh Sangwan

Present:

Mr. Amit Dhawan, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.R.P.Khaira, Assistant Advocate General,
Punjab.

MrAbhimanyu Vinayak, Advocate for respondent
No.2 -Nirmal Singh

Arvind Singh Sangwan, J.

This order will dispose of above mentioned two

petitions i.e. CRM-M-45376-2016 and CRM-M -1110-2017. In both the petitions, petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No.100 dated 18.11.2015 under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467 ,468, 469 ,471 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC for short) registered at Police Station Nurmahal District Jalandhar (Annexure P1) along with all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 4.3.2016 (Annexure P2).

In both the cases, trial Court/Illaq Magistrate was directed to record the statements of the parties and send its report with regard to genuineness of the compromise effected between the parties and also to report whether any of the accused has been declared proclaimed offenders.

In pursuance to the said order, the trial Court, after recording the statements of the parties, has reported on 2.2.2017 that the complainant- Nirmal Singh and accused- Gurdev Singh, Jasvir Singh, Nirmal Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Sukhjinder Singh and Kashmiro have appeared and identified by their respective counsel representing them in the trial Court and that the compromise effected between the parties was voluntarily and without any coercion, pressure .

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in **Kulwinder Singh and others vs. State of Punjab, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052**, 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 felt that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court or to otherwise 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 (Crl.) 543, has held as under:-

“57. 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.

Accordingly, both the petitions are allowed. FIR No.100 dated 18.11.2015 under Sections 419 ,420,4 65, 467, 468, 469, 471 and 120-B IPC registered at Police Station Nurmahal District Jalandhar on the basis of settlement dated 8.3.2017 along with all the consequential proceedings, arising therefrom, are ordered to be quashed .

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

August 04, 2017
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether Reportable: Yes/No