

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

CRM-M No.1105 of 2018 (O&M)

Decided on: 11.12.2018

Meenakshi @ Meenu and another

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present : Mr. Suman Jain, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Joginder Pal Ratra, DAG, Punjab.

Ms. Satwant Mehta, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J. (Oral)

The petitioners have prayed for quashing of FIR No.258 dated 30.11.2017, for offence punishable under Sections 115 and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code (in short 'IPC') registered at Police Station Division-I, Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar, District Jalandhar, on the basis of the compromise effected between the parties.

During the pendency of the dispute, a compromise has been arrived at between the parties and on 02.04.2018, the parties were directed to appear before the trial Court to get their respective statements recorded in this regard.

The trial Court has submitted a report dated 16.07.2018, after recording the statement of the complainant – Amandeep Puri and accused – Meenakshi and Sudarshan Kumari, who have acknowledged the terms and conditions of the compromise (Ex.C1).

The trial Court has also recorded the statement of ASI Rakesh Kumar, the Investigating Officer, who has stated that only 02 persons i.e. Meenakshi and Sudarshan Kumari are the accused persons and there is only one victim/complainant i.e. Amandeep Puri. On the basis of the same, the trial Court has submitted a report that the compromise effected between the parties is genuine and is not on account of any pressure or coercion and the settlement arrived at between the parties is not having any adverse affect upon the rights of any third party.

Counsel for the petitioners has submitted that no other criminal case is pending between the parties and none of the petitioner has been declared as proclaimed offender.

Counsel for the State assisted with counsel for the respondent No.2 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 and perused the case file.

After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court, this Court is of the opinion that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner and respondent/victims, who have decided to bury their dispute and live in peace.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in ***“Kulwinder Singh and others vs State of Punjab”*, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052**, it is held that 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:-

“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.

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, the petition is allowed and FIR No.258 dated 30.11.2017, for offence

punishable under Sections 115 and 120-B IPC registered at Police Station Division-I, Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar, District Jalandhar and proceedings emanating therefrom are ordered to be quashed, *qua* the petitioners.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

11.12.2018
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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable:	Yes/No