

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

Criminal Misc. No. M- 15784 of 2017(O&M)

Date of Decision: January 09 , 2018.

Jagjit Singh and others PETITIONER(s)

Versus

State of Punjab and another RESPONDENT (s)

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Vivek Salathia, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Ms. Seena Mand, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. J.S.Khattar, Advocate
for the complainant/respondent No.2.

LISA GILL, J.

Prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No.48 dated 02.06.2016 under sections 406/498A/506 IPC, registered at Police Station Kathu Nangal, Amritsar and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of a compromise arrived at between the parties.

The abovesaid FIR was registered at the instance of respondent No.2 due to matrimonial discord with her husband i.e., petitioner No.1. The matter has been amicably resolved before the Mediation and Conciliation Centre of this Court, the terms of which were reduced into writing on 17.02.2017 (Annexure P2). The parties decided to part ways. It is informed that petition under Section 13B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 filed by petitioner No.1 and respondent

No.2 has since been allowed. The entire settled amount has been received by respondent No.2. It is thus prayed that this petition be allowed.

This Court on 03.10.2017 directed the parties to appear before learned trial court for recording their statements in respect to the above-mentioned compromise. Learned trial court was directed to submit a report regarding the genuineness of the compromise, as to whether it has been arrived at out of the free will and volition of the parties without any coercion, fear or undue influence. Learned trial court was also directed to intimate whether any of the petitioners are absconding/proclaimed offenders and whether any other case is pending against them. Information was sought as to whether all affected persons are a party to the settlement.

Pursuant to order dated 03.10.2017, the parties appeared before the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar and their statements were recorded on 13.10.2017. Respondent No.2 stated that the matter has been amicably settled by her with all the accused petitioners before the Mediation and Conciliation Centre of this Court on 17.02.2017. Copy of the compromise was produced as Ex.C1. The settlement, it is stated, has been arrived at out of her own consent and free will without any pressure, threat or coercion. It is duly stated that the stipulated amount in terms of the settlement has been received by her. It is further stated by respondent No.2 that she has no objection whatsoever in case the abovesaid FIR against the accused petitioners is quashed. Statements of the petitioners in respect to the settlement were recorded as well.

As per report dated 07.11.2017 received from the learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Amritsar, satisfaction is expressed that the compromise between the parties is genuine and voluntary, arrived at without any threat or

coercion. None of the petitioners are reported to be proclaimed offenders. Statements of the parties are appended alongwith the said report.

Learned counsel for respondent No.2 reaffirms and verifies the factum of settlement between the parties. It is reiterated that respondent No.2 has no objection to the quashing of the abovementioned FIR against all the petitioners.

Learned counsel for the State submits that as the abovesaid FIR arises out of a matrimonial dispute, the State has no objection to the quashing of the FIR in question as well as all consequential proceedings on the basis of a settlement arrived at between the parties.

In **Kulwinder Singh and others versus State of Punjab and another** 2007 (3) R.C.R. (Criminal) 1052, a five member Bench of this Court has observed as under:-

“The compromise, in a modern society, is the sine qua non of harmony and orderly behaviour. It is the soul of justice and if the power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code is used to enhance such a compromise which, in turn, enhances the social amity and reduces friction, then it truly is “finest hour of justice”.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **B.S.Joshi and others v. State of Haryana, 2003(4) SCC 675** has observed that it becomes the duty of the Court to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of this case, it would be in the interest of justice to quash the abovesaid FIR as no useful purpose would be served by continuance of the present proceedings. It will merely lead to wastage of precious time of the court and would be an exercise in futility.

This petition is, thus, allowed and FIR No. 48 dated 02.06.2016

under sections 406/498A/506 IPC, registered at Police Station Kathu Nangal, Amritsar alongwith all consequential proceedings are, hereby, quashed.

January 09 , 2018.
'om'

(LISA GILL)
JUDGE

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