

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-30920 of 2017

Date of Decision: March 15, 2018

Harneet Singh and another.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN

Present: Mr.R.S.Dhanda, Advocate for the petitioners.
Ms.Saminadhir, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab
Mr.Manish Verma, Advocate for complainant-respondent No.2

ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN, J.

Petitioners have filed the present petition under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for quashing of FIR No. 48 dated 20.5.2017 under Sections 65, 66(D) and 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 420 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ('IPC' for short) registered at Police Station Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, District Police Commissionerate, Ludhiana (Annexure P1) and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 31.7.2017 (Annexure P2) .

Vide order dated 24.8.2017, a direction was given to the trial Court to record the statements of the parties and submit a report

regarding the genuineness of the compromise effected between the parties and also to intimate whether any accused is proclaimed offender.

In pursuance thereof, the trial Court has submitted a report on 22.9.2017 (forwarded by the District and Sessions Judge Ludhiana dated 25.9.2017), after recording the statements of the parties. The trial Court has submitted that the complainant- Dev Krishan Garg and accused- Harneet Singh and Prabhjot Singh have appeared along with their respective counsel, who had identified them and got their statements recorded acknowledging that the compromise had been effected voluntarily, without any coercion or any undue influence. This fact is not disputed by learned State Counsel, who has submitted on instructions from Assistant Sub Inspector-Major Singh, that none of the petitioners is declared as proclaimed offender.

Perusal of allegations in the FIR reveals that the present case squarely falls in the category of cases that can be quashed by the High Court, in exercise of its inherent power under Section 482 of the Code. Keeping in view authoritative enunciation of law laid down by Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in “**Gian Singh vs State of Punjab and another**”, **2012(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 543** and in the light of facts and circumstances of the present case, this Court is of the considered opinion that continuation of criminal proceedings would amount to abuse of process of law and it is expedient in the interest of justice that criminal proceedings are put to an end.

As per the Full Bench judgement 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.

The Apex Court in **Central Bureau of Investigation vs. Sadhu Ram Singla and others** (2017) 5 Supreme Court Cases 350 has held as under:-

“Having carefully considered the singular facts and circumstances of the present case, and also the law relating to the continuance of criminal cases where the complainant and the accused had settled their differences and had arrived at an amicable arrangement, we see no reason to differ with the view taken in Manoj Sharma’s case (supra) and several decisions of this Court delivered thereafter with respect to the doctrine of judicial restraint. In concluding hereinabove, we are not unmindful of the view recorded in the decisions cited at the Bar that depending on the attendant facts, continuance of the criminal proceedings, after a compromise has been arrived at between the complainant and the accused, would amount to abuse of process of Court and an exercise in futility since the trial would be prolonged and ultimately, it may end in a decision which may be of no consequence to any of the parties.”

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, this petition is allowed. FIR No. 48 dated 20.5.2017 under Sections 65 ,66(D) and 72 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and Section 420 IPC registered at Police Station Saheed Bhagat Singh Nagar District Police Commissionerate, Ludhiana (Annexure P1) along with all the consequential proceedings, arising therefrom, are ordered to be quashed by way of compromise subject to payment of costs of ₹ 5,000/- in the Office of District Legal Services Authority, Ludhiana within 8 weeks from today, failing which this order shall stand recalled automatically without reference to the Court.

(ARVIND SINGH SANGWAN)
JUDGE

March 15, 2018
arya

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
Whether Reportable: Yes/No