

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

220

CRM-M-8365-2019

DATE OF DECISION:12.04.2019

SHAKTI SINGH

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present: Mr. S.P.S. Sidhu, Advocate for the petitioner(s).

Ms. Ruchika Sabharwal, AAG, Punjab.

ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in FIR No. 89, dated 13.6.2018, under Section 295-A IPC (Section 25 of the Arms Act, 1959 and Section 13(1)/17 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 were added later on), registered at Police Station City Kotakpura, District Faridkot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the allegations against the petitioner are that he in conspiracy with others had torn the pages of holy book in a bid to escalate religious tensions and outrage the religious feelings of a community. He also contends that the allegations under the Arms Act pertain to the other accused namely Mohinderpal @ Bittu from whom 25 empties of 32 bore bullets had been recovered. The petitioner is in custody since 1.10.2018. He further contends that in a case of similar nature bearing CRM-M No.9243 of 2019 decided on 2.4.2019, a coordinate Bench of this Court had granted the concession of regular bail to the petitioner therein, who was in custody for about 4 ½ months.

Learned State counsel, upon instructions from HC Suba Singh, states that the challan has been presented but the charges are yet to be framed. She, however, contends that the allegations against the petitioner are very serious in nature and he is not entitled to the benefit of regular bail.

In view of the submissions of learned counsel for the petitioner, especially when the petitioner is in custody for over 6 months and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, I deem it appropriate to grant him the concession of regular bail.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

12.04.2019.

SwarnjitS

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