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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

Date of decision: 05.12.2019

+ CRL.M.C. 2601/2019

PRERNA SINGH

..... Petitioner

Through Mr. Prashant with Mr. Prithvi Raj,
Advs.

versus

STATE

..... Respondent

Through Mr. K.K. Ghei, APP for State
SI Parnesh Lamba, PS South Campus

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURESH KUMAR KAIT

J U D G M E N T (O R A L)

1. Vide the present petition, the petitioner seeks direction thereby to quash the criminal proceedings pending against the petitioner in criminal case No.58944/2016 and FIR No. 520/2015 dated 10.09.2015 under section 3 of The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007 before the learned CMM, Patiala House Court, New Delhi.
2. It is not in dispute that the complainant and the IO in the present case is the same officer and as submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that complainant has investigated the case and if he makes deposition before the

court then the conviction will be in his credit. However, the complainant being the IO of the case is against the natural justice and fair trial.

3. Similar issue came before this Court in CrI.M.C. 4544/2019 decided on 03.12.2019 wherein, the complainant was a police officer who himself investigated the present case and filed chargesheet. This court held, it is well-settled law that the complainant and IO cannot be the same, however, in the present case, also it happened. Thus, the chargesheet, in the present case, suffers from defects and the petitioner cannot be held guilty for the offences mentioned in the chargesheet.

4. In case of ***Babu Bhai vs. State of Gujarat: 2002 (12) SCC 254*** has held as under:-

“The Investigating Officer should be fair and conscious so as to rule out any possibility of fabrication of evidence and his impartial conduct must dispel any suspicion as to its genuineness. The Investigating Officer "is not to bolster up a prosecution case with such evidence as may enable the court to record conviction but to bring out the real unvarnished truth"

5. In the ***State of Bihar vs. P P Sharma: 1991 AIR 1260***, it was observed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court that :-

“Investigation is a delicate painstaking and dextrous process. Ethical conduct is absolutely essential for investigative professionalism.... Therefore, before countenancing such allegations of mala fides or bias it is salutary and an onerous duty and responsibility of the

court, not only to insist upon making specific and definite allegations of personal animosity against the Investigating Officer at the start of the investigation but also must insist to establish and prove them from the facts and circumstances to the satisfaction of the court....”

6. It is observed in ***State vs. Rajangam: (2010) 15 SCC 369*** that the accused preferred an appeal before the High Court by stating that the officer who had registered the crime, also investigated the said case. According to the submission advanced on behalf of the accused, the crime ought to have been investigated by another independent officer and not by P.W.6 (complainant). Accordingly, the High Court found substance in the submission and acquitted the accused.

7. In ***Laltu Prasad vs. State of West Bengal: 2017(2) R.C.R. (Criminal) 237 (Calcutta) (DB)***, held that the complainant himself acted as the investigating officer by violating the principles of fair and impartial investigation, but should not be resorted to and it is a disturbing feature.

8. Accordingly, keeping in view the facts of the present case and the settled position of law, I hereby quash the in criminal case No.58944/2016 and FIR No. 520/2015 dated 10.09.2015 under section 3 of The Delhi Prevention of Defacement of Property Act, 2007 and emanating proceedings thereto qua the petitioner.

9. The petition is allowed and disposed of.

10. Order *dasti*.

(SURESH KUMAR KAIT)
JUDGE

DECEMBER 05, 2019

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