

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

209

CRM-M-14924-2020

Date of decision: 08.10.2020

Sahib Singh**....Petitioner****versus****State of Punjab****....Respondent****CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Agnihotri**

Present: Mr. Ranjeet Kumar Jaswal, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Ms. Rashmi Attri, AAG, Punjab.

*(the aforesaid presence is being recorded through video**conferencing since the proceedings are being conducted in Virtual Court).*

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

Petitioner-Sahib Singh, stated to be aged 18 years, has filed the present petition under Section 439 Cr. P.C. *inter alia* praying for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.55 dated 05.05.2020, under Sections 354, 354A, 506 of IPC (Section 8 of POCSO Act, 2012 added later on), registered at Police Station Kheri Gandian, Patiala, District Patiala.

Learned counsel for the petitioner based on pleadings, submits that as per the allegations in the FIR, the petitioner used to follow the daughter of the complainant, namely, Anjali (who was studying in 10th class). It is alleged that on 30.04.2020, the petitioner had allegedly misbehaved with her and when she raised her voice, the petitioner ran away from there.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Harvinder,

submits that investigation is complete, challan has been presented on 05.06.2020. There are a total of 12 witnesses, but none have been examined till date. It is further submitted that there is no other case in which the petitioner is involved.

Faced with the situation, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that petitioner being a young boy, the situation due to COVID-19, retention of the petitioner in jail is dangerous to his life and otherwise also the trial is likely to take some time. Therefore, the petitioner may be granted the concession of regular bail.

In view of the peculiar facts as noticed above, considering the existing situation due to COVID-19 and the fact that trial is likely to take some time, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the release of the petitioner on regular bail subject to his furnishing adequate bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Duty Magistrate/trial court concerned.

However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed to be an expression on merits of the case.

Disposed of.

(GIRISH AGNIHOTRI)
JUDGE

08.10.2020.
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Whether speaking/ reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No