

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-16287-2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 09.07.2020

Vinod Kumar @ Monu

... Petitioner

VS.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE GIRISH AGNIHOTRI

Present: Mr. Umesh Aggarwal, Advocate for the petitioner

Ms. Monika Jalota, DAG Punjab

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video conferencing on account of lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The petitioner Vinod Kumar @ Monu aged 37 years has filed the present petition *inter alia* with a prayer for grant of regular bail. He has been allegedly involved in case FIR No.163 dated 31.12.2019 under Section 363/366-A/380 IPC and Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (added later) registered at PS Raja Sanai, Amritsar Rural.

Learned counsel for the petitioner based upon the pleadings submits that it is his case that the petitioner has been involved on account of false and concocted story.

Notice of motion.

On the asking, Ms. Monika Jalota, DAG Punjab accepts notice through video conferencing.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Subhash Kumar, has informed that the petitioner left his wife and two children and had eloped with the daughter of the complainant. She further submits that when

from the hotel at Ludhiana, the girl was recovered at that time, the petitioner was also found there along with his minor children.

Faced with this, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that challan has been presented in this case on 13.03.2020 and charges are yet to be framed. There are 21 witnesses and none have been examined till date. He then submits that due to COVID situation retention of the petitioner in jail is dangerous to his life and otherwise also the trial is likely to take some time.

In view of the above, this Court deems it appropriate to release 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.

09.07.2020

vishal shonkar

1. *Whether speaking/reasoned?*
2. *Whether reportable?*

(Girish Agnihotri)
Judge

Yes/No
Yes/No