

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-16245-2020

Date of decision: 23.06.2020

Sarabjeet Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAMENDRA JAIN

PRESENT: Mr. Aman Dhir, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhupender Beniwal, AAG, Punjab.

RAMENDRA JAIN, J. (ORAL)

Case has been taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

Through this petition under Section 438 Cr.P.C., prayer has been made for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No. 152 dated 14.05.2020 registered under Sections 384 and 506 read with Section 34 IPC at Police Station City Muktsar, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

According to prosecution, petitioner along with his accomplice who are Press Reporters, blackmailed and extorted ₹10,000/- out of the settled amount of ₹25,000/- from complainant-Karanvir Singh, after his apprehension in a case under the Excise Act, for carrying 7 bottles of liquor which he purchased from a liquor vend for his own consumption, on the pretext that otherwise they would defame him by publication of his case.

Learned counsel *inter alia* contends that petitioner has falsely

been implicated in the instant case. No question arises of extortion after publication of news regarding apprehension of complainant. Instant FIR is a counter-blast of FIR No. 148 dated 12.05.2020 (Annexure P-2), under Section 61 of the Excise Act, Police Station City Mukstar, District Sri Muktsar Sahib, registered against the complainant under Section 61 of the Excise Act. The offences against the petitioner are triable by a Magistrate.

On the other hand, learned State counsel vehemently opposed the submissions of learned counsel for the petitioner.

At this stage, when the Bench was not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner, learned counsel submits that he may be permitted to withdraw the instant petition.

Ordered accordingly.

June 23, 2020

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**(RAMENDRA JAIN)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether Reportable

Yes/No